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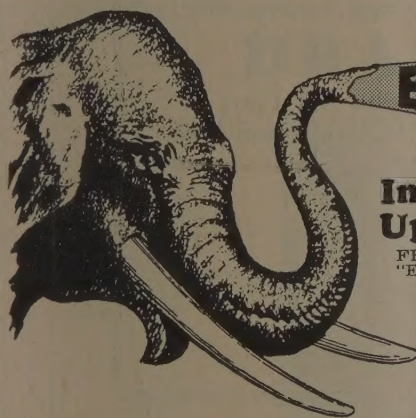
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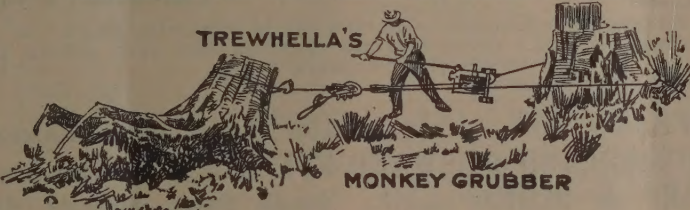
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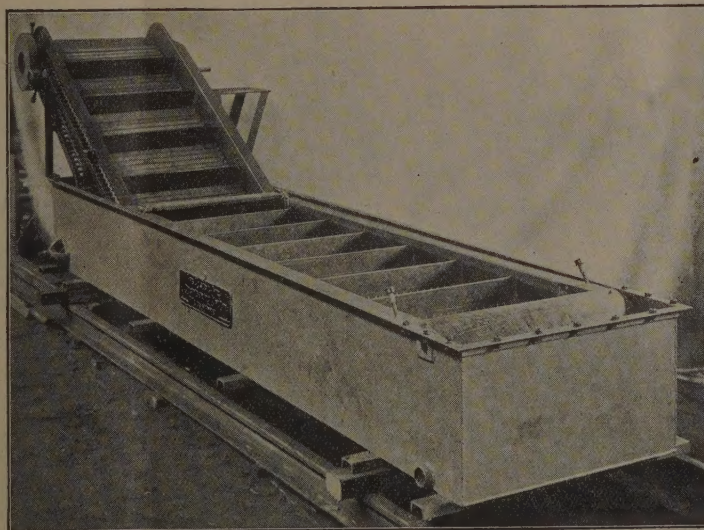


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Editorial Chats



The Victorian Marketing Bill.

THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS BILL, now before the Victorian Parliament, is receiving a mixed reception from fruit-growers. The need for improvements in the marketing of fruit is generally admitted.

A summary of the Bill is published on another page in this issue, and it will rest with producers to decide if they wish to come under the Bill, provided it passes both houses of Parliament.

As regards the powers which are conferred on the board, none can complain of inadequacy, seeing that once a product is declared a commodity and an affirmative vote is given the producer is divested of all power, and the product is vested entirely in the board as owner. It would appear from reading Section 6 (1) that producers of any variety or grade can apply for a board, which would apparently mean that citrus growers, Apple growers, berry growers, can each, if desired, apply for their own board. The wording on this subject is by no means clear. "Variety" is mentioned but not "kind," and it is hoped that in committee, Parliament will put the matter beyond doubt.

It should be noted that the voting is not simply one producer one vote, but that in addition votes can be recorded by sons and daughters of the producers,—those working not for wages but for their keep only. No provision is made for voting according to acreage.

Then, again, Section 16 provides that the Governor-in-Council can declare two or more products to be commodities under the Act and to set up a board (without a vote being taken). This clause is causing much comment among producers, and it needs clarifying.

It is known, for instance, that some sections of the fruit industry are opposed to the Bill, and they are asking, should some other section of growers apply for a board, will it be possible for such opposers to be brought under a board without a vote?

A freely expressed opinion is that while this Bill may appear for the moment to suit Potato and Onion growers, or egg producers, it has not been drafted with the intricacies of the fruit industry in mind.

Even growers who favor organisation by legislation have expressed no enthusiasm for this Bill; on the other hand, they state that if the Act becomes law

they do not anticipate that Apple growers, for example, would vote themselves in under the Act.

A statement of policy on the part of the Victorian Central Citrus Association will be awaited with interest. In the meantime, however, it is known that some prominent citrus growers are opposing the bill, and many who a few years ago favored legislation of this character now frankly state that they do not think that it would be in the interest of citrus growers for a board to be set up for local marketing.

Some anomalies appear to exist in the Bill under consideration, as fruit for export is specifically mentioned, this being a Commonwealth matter. While fruit sent interstate is excluded, Section 17 (e) provides for a Victorian Control Board to take over any fruit in Victoria, whether produced in Victoria or not. Does not this bring in Constitutional difficulties? The Peanut case is still fresh in memory.

The Act, of course, may be amended on its passage through Parliament, but as originally drafted the setting up of a board of three, one of whom is a Government nominee, seems inadequate. On this board of three the chairman has both a deliberative and a casting vote; further, two can form a quorum, in which event, of course, the chairman's ruling, he having two votes, would be binding.

The Victorian Country Party is, with the assistance of the Labor Party, in power in Victoria, and credit will be given to the Government for its endeavours to improve the lot of the primary producer. It is of the very greatest importance to the Commonwealth that the primary producer should prosper. Many factors have entered into the circumstances which in recent years have made primary production anything but a payable business.

The present Bill before the House will unquestionably receive close attention from every section of the fruit industry to see if it can be adapted for practical service. On the previous occasion a similar Bill was before Parliament there was considerable opposition from Apple and Pear growers. On the other hand, some producers favor the legislation.

If this Bill be enacted and growers do not come in under it, of what value is it? It would remain a dead letter. On the other hand, the need would remain as urgently as before for improvements to be made. These needs are with us now, and organisation is being created to bring about betterment. There is no magic wand to wave all difficulties aside.

The board when created is empowered to make levies for research work.

At recent growers' conferences this matter was deemed to be of national significance, and that growers should not be called upon to pay special levies for this service.

Some further explanation by Mr. Hogan regarding what is happening in England would be welcomed, seeing that he mentioned similar English legislation. Whatever marketing Act is operating in England, it is certain that fruitgrowers are not under it. In fact, a Bill designed specially for the fruit industry was drawn up by the National Farmers' Union, and even that project is under heavy fire from fruitgrowers.

It may further be remarked that the proposed English Bill contains provisions for advisory committees of both wholesalers and retailers, thus recognising their intimate association with the industry. Nothing of this character is included in the Victorian Bill.

[Later advices by mail state that the proposed Fruit Marketing Organisation Bill has been withdrawn by the British National Farmers' Union.]

Similarly, in New Zealand, legislation was enacted some years ago giving growers the power to set up control boards, both for export and for local marketing, but, while the export control is operating, there appears to be no move to set up controls for local marketing. When given a vote recently on a similar Act South Australian citrus growers decided against the control.

Many things have happened since legislation of a similar character was before Parliament a few years ago, when the Bill was defeated in the Upper House. Growers have since set up various forms of organisation following along the successful lines adopted in the other States, and in other parts of the world.

Several associations have expressed the view that the Minister would have done well to have consulted them as to the most effective method of assistance, whether by legislation or other means.

Anyhow, the Bill is now before Parliament. Growers are advised to study it. The pros and cons can be weighed impartially. It is not being rushed. There is time for mature consideration and discussions without heat. There is a genuine desire on the part of legislators, producers and all right-thinking citizens to find the best means of serving the producers and the general public. Some think this Bill goes too far, others that it does not go far enough, but that there should be nation-wide planning and control. We are living under rapidly changing conditions.

It has been admitted during the debates in Parliament that this measure is socialistic in character, in fact, Mr. Kent Hughes, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, asked in the House—"Who in these days is afraid of the socialistic bogey?"

Probably the answer to this question will decide the individual's reaction to the Bill under consideration.

Production and Distribution.

Organisation of Producers and Consumers on a Co-operative Basis

Advised.

World Problems Discussed.

Dr. Kagawa, the Japanese social reformer and organiser, whose unselfish service for the people of Japan has won world-wide recognition, addressed large audiences throughout Australia on his recent visit to this country.

Realising the social unrest throughout the world, and the spread of Communism as a result of the revolution in Russia, Dr. Kagawa is seeking a solution of the problems of production, distribution and exchange, along the lines of effective national and international co-operation on an ethical basis, as distinct from the totalitarian state and the gospel of force as taught by Karl Marx and exemplified by Lenin.

Dr. Kagawa, while perceiving with Marx the evils of the ill-balanced Capitalistic regime, believes that the outlook of Marx, being wholly materialistic, does not measure up to the standards of the world's needs. It was impossible to ignore spiritual realities.

Dr. Kagawa stated that the tremendous growth of consumers' co-operatives in Britain, Japan and elsewhere was very encouraging. A system was possible whereby the public could co-operatively own insurance, banking and the credit system generally; producers and consumers' co-operatives would solve distribution problems.

He did not believe in compulsory co-operation of consumers or producers by legislative enactment. Co-operation could be, and was being effectively secured, by education.

More Research Needed.

THE DECISION of the annual conference of the Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association of Victoria to press for increased research work will be appreciated by all associated with the fruit industry. In their campaign the association will seek the co-operation of all kindred bodies. The broad fact is that Victoria, with the largest area under fruit of all the Australian States, is far below the standard of other States as regards horticultural research. This is not the only criterion. By comparison with, say, U.S.A., horticultural research in Australia is woefully lagging. This matter assumes major importance in the light of world competition. If we cannot produce the quality and quantity per acre compared with others we are seriously handicapped.

This is a national matter.

It affects not only every individual producer, but every citizen and school-boy. Australia's wealth depends so far on the extent of her primary products. Including dried, fresh and canned fruits, the export reaches worth-while figures in bringing wealth to this country.

From the vigor with which this matter was discussed at the Cool Stores' Association conference there can be no doubt regarding the determination of producers to press for a satisfactory conclusion.

Doubtless the lead given will find a ready response in the other States, so that an Australian-wide campaign can be conducted for the betterment, not only of the producers concerned, but the nation as a whole.

N.Z. TRADE WITH U.S.A.

In a letter to the Editor, Mr. A. Osborne, general manager, N.Z. Fruit-growers' Federation Ltd., desires to correct an impression that would have been gathered from an interview published in May "Fruit World." At the conclusion of the letter Mr. Osborne writes: "Please indicate in your next issue that the export of N.Z. Apples and Pears to America is very promising."

THAT'S ONE WAY.

The Indiana (U.S.A.) State Relief Committee has made a new regulation in regard to relief to indigent unemployed. It is to the effect that families on relief must raise a vegetable garden for their own table use if they wish to continue receiving assistance from the State. Only families in which every member is too old or otherwise physically unable to plant a garden will be exempted from this rule.

Where relief seekers work in a community garden, such as are scattered throughout the State, they will receive cash value for their work, the produce of the community garden being marketed by the Relief Committee.

This scheme is expected not only to weed out those who refuse to work, but also to give relief households the vegetables so needed in their diet and to give unemployed persons a greater interest in life during the period of the depression.

PRIME MINISTER IN LONDON.

In honor of the visit of the Australian Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons), the luncheon given by the High Commissioner (Mr. Bruce) on April 30 was the largest gathering of influential buyers of Australian produce ever seen in London. Mr. Bruce paid a tribute to the services of Mr. Lyons.

Mr. Lyons was accorded a great ovation. He congratulated Mr. Bruce on his able work for Australia in London.

News in Brief.

AUSTRALIAN APPLES in London this season met unexpected competition from American Apples. Early in May Australian Jonathans improved in price owing to the scarcity of good American Winesaps.

THE NEED for the Australian fruit industry to have direct representation in England was stressed by Mr. G. W. Brown, president of the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association, at a recent meeting of growers at Harcourt. Australia was the only Dominion which did not have direct representation in London.

OWING TO DRY WEATHER and the effects of the grasshopper plague the vintage in the Stawell (Vic.) district was one of the poorest on record. The quality of the wines, however, is excellent.

AN AMENDMENT to the Commonwealth Constitution is recommended by the chairman of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board (Mr. J. M. Balfour) to limit the provisions of Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution to freedom of interstate trade from taxation and discrimination by the States. Commonwealth law should take precedence over State law.

THE SATISFACTORY PRICES received in Britain so far this season for Australasian fruit is very heartening to growers.

Frosts in England have reduced crops of soft fruits.

REMARK AND DISTRICT fruit-growers were recently congratulated by Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Agr.Sc., Chief Horticultural Instructor, Sth. Aust. Dept. of Agriculture, on the complete manner in which they had adopted the valuable practice of growing cover crops.

BIG MEETINGS of growers on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas have protested against the legislation propounded by the N.S.W. Fruit-growers' Federation, viz., legislation along the lines of the Queensland Fruit Marketing Act.

THE HEAVY SNOWFALL in Batlow (N.S.W.) in mid-April caused great damage to trees and fruit, particularly Granny Smiths. The district has suffered a severe set-back.

MANY home-made dehydrators were constructed and used in the Renmark and other Murray River areas this season, because of the extraordinarily difficult drying season.

AS CHERRY VARIETIES are unfruitful with their own pollen, varieties should be planted to provide for cross pollination.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN citrus growers are giving thought to the successful methods adopted in California of using 1,000 lb. of sulphur per acre, thus benefiting trees, crops and soil.

IN PLANTING fruit trees, remember, the importance of providing varieties for interpollination.

GRANNY SMITH APPLES are being exported from Victoria in increasing quantities yearly.

PEAR EXPORT from the Doncaster (Vic.) district this season is expected to constitute a record.

FOR THE EXPORT OF APPLES this season from Victoria, 90 per cent. went in the standard bushel case (18 x 11½ x 10½).

FRUIT BUDS on trees in southern Victoria are showing well for next season, despite heavy crops in 1935.

TREE BANDING in June is urged to check the fruit tree root weevil. Prune lower branches to keep them at least six inches from the ground, and destroy weeds.

CITRUS CROPS in N.S.W. have been reduced by dry weather in coastal districts. On M.I.A., Navels light, Valencias medium.

EARLY BROODS of codlin moth were kept well under control in Victoria; late broods caused many "stings."

NAVEL AND VALENCIA Oranges show good crops in Victoria; Lemons fair.

COUNTRY INSPECTION of export fruit was recommended at a recent Sydney conference of growers, exporters, shipping companies, also Federal and State officers. Wharfside inspection, however, would still be necessary. The Department of Agriculture was urged to institute a vigorous educational fruit packing programme.

FOR ORANGES EXPORTED overseas this season the Federal Government has granted a bounty of 2/- a case.

RED SCALE is a serious pest in N.S.W. The sale of infected fruit and failure to carry out control measures each involve the penalty of a £50 fine.

Shell Company's Sports. — A unique event in the sporting annals of Australia was made at Easter when over 200 members of the Shell Company's Melbourne and Adelaide staffs journeyed to Mt. Gambier to compete in interstate sports. Visits to beauty spots and places of historic interest were greatly enjoyed.

What Our Growers Are Thinking.

PRUNING FRUIT TREES

GRAFTING WAX

Correspondence from readers on all topics connected with the fruit industry are welcome. Letters should reach the Editor by the 20th of each month.)

Pruning Fruit Trees

"Pakenham Grower" writes: The best way to comment on fruit tree pruning is by practical demonstration, because trees do not respond to the same treatment in different districts, and on different soils.

Best results are obtained when the same individual prunes the same trees each year, when a definite plan can be carried out. Referring to Jonathans and Delicious (and it probably refers to most varieties also), my main contention is that growers, while they may prune hard for a year or two, do not continue to do so long enough.

With trees now about 20 years old on this type of land (grey loam), hard pruning is necessary, or, I should say, I think it is. This is not a popular view, but is beginning to justify itself, when tree after tree will carry a 10-case crop without a single prop.

Hard pruning causes strong lateral growth, and on "Delicious" it is far better to have your fruit on laterals than

have a large number of fruit spurs coming direct out of the limbs, which soon die back and leave feet of barren wood.

Above all, make every cut with emphasis on the every—with a definite object, for which you can give the reason why: a large order, perhaps, but most important. Convince yourself that a given plan is right and stick to it.

Do not be afraid to experiment; it is interesting and worth while.

Grafting Wax

For the benefit of any orchardist who may prefer to prepare his own grafting wax, a reader supplies the following formula:—

Heat up equal parts of resin and a good grade of asphaltum. He explains that it requires heat to keep this type of wax in a liquid condition, and, therefore, care must be taken that it does not burn very tender bark. He has used it with success on many orchard trees.

A more complicated mixture, and one which liquifies at a lower temperature, is to mix one pound beeswax, two pounds resin, one quart linseed oil, and four tablespoonsful of turpentine.

PERSONAL

Mr. E. Ross, of H. Jones & Co., Hobart, and F. W. Moore Ltd., London, performed good services for the Australian fruitgrowers this season by his representations to secure freight reductions and in working for more adequate British preference for Dominion Apples.

Mr. G. W. Brown, president of the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association, and delegate from the Australian Apple and Pear Export Council to the recent London Fruit Conference, addressed meetings of growers at Harcourt and Portland during May. He plans to speak at Goulburn Valley growers, also to address a meeting at Batlow, N.S.W., early in June.

Mr. Thorby, Assistant Federal Minister, is making an investigation into the marketing of Australian produce in London. Assistance is being rendered by the staff of Australia House and officials of the National Fruit and Potato Trade Associations.

Mr. J. J. Tully, of Doncaster, was the capable chairman of the recent Orchardists' and Cool Stores' conference at

Portland, Vic. He was re-elected president. Messrs. Frank Moore and L. Cole, the appreciated vice-presidents, were also re-elected.



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TASMANIA

Election of State Fruit Board

Meetings of growers were held in various parts of Tasmania during May, when candidates for election to the State Fruit Board gave expression to their views. On a vote being taken, the following were elected:—South: W. H. Calvert, M.L.C., Sandy Bay; R. H. R. Thompson, Huonville; B. C. Clark, Koonya; C. V. Smith, Woodbridge; D. E. Ryan, Franklin; T. Burnaby, Lymington. North: J. H. Astell, Spreyton; J. R. Abel, Lilydale; L. S. Taylor, Exeter.

Tasmanian Fruit in Sydney

In a recent report to the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. R. Cosgrove), the representative of Tasmanian fruitgrowers in New South Wales (Mr. B. O. Plummer) stated that he was enquiring into unloading conditions which might bring about freight reduction.

The handling of the fruit was generally very fair, though there were individual cases of rough handling—a human element in a large body of men, and very hard to prevent. Some carters handled the fruit roughly. He was enquiring into this matter.

Some growers were still sending unsuitable varieties such as D.C., Alex., P.A., and P.D.N., which were hard to sell, and had a depressing effect on the market. The general standard of fruit was very good, but 40,000 cases per week appeared to be too much.

Tasmanian Representative at Sydney

Mr. B. O. Plummer, recently appointed Tasmanian Government Representative at Sydney to watch the interests of Tasmanian fruitgrowers, is installed in an office at the City Municipal Markets, from which he will issue weekly reports to the Department of Agriculture, Hobart, and to the Tasmanian State Fruit Board.

Mr. Plummer was one of the youngest soldiers in the A.I.F., enlisting at the age of 16. He served with distinction in the 10th Trench Mortar Battery, and on his return took up fruitgrowing at Southport (Hunon). He has taken an active part in the affairs of his district, and is a councillor and J.P. of the Esperance Municipality.

One of the first things done by Mr. Plummer after his arrival in Sydney was to associate himself with the trade

deputation that waited on the Sydney Harbor Trust with a view to getting a reduction of wharfage rates on fruit and farm produce from the Island State. The deputation received a sympathetic hearing, and there is a possibility that some reduction will be made.

The wharfage fee on Apples is at present 1½d. per case, equal to 5/- per ton, a much higher rate than is charged other commodities. Tasmania has, according to Mr. Plummer's figures, sent 6,379,750 cases of fruit to Sydney during the last six years, a yearly average of 1,630,292 cases. The total wharfage paid during the six years was £40,473.

Mr. Plummer is also seeking a reduction on the charge of ½d. per case for inspection of Tasmanian fruit at Sydney, which totals to an amount annually that is far in excess of the cost of actual inspection.

He is a strong advocate of straw-board packing, and his comments on careless packing will be passed on to growers in the hope of bringing about improvement. Coming from a fellow grower, his former associates in the Huon may take a little more notice of comments than formerly. Very large Jonathans have not opened up at all well recently, and growers have had that information passed on to them by the Tasmanian representative, whose job is to improve the pack, as well as to seek better marketing, where possible.

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Cool Storage In Australasia

Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association of Victoria

SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT PORTLAND

THE seventeenth annual conference of the Orchardists' and Fruit Cool Stores' Association of Victoria was held at Portland on May 21, 1935, Mr. J. J. Tully presiding. Delegates were in attendance as follows:—Messrs. F. Moore, J. Stevens (Blackburn), G. F. Fankhauser (Burwood East), H. R. Chandler (Croydon), W. J. Miller, G. Miller, R. Wadeson (Diamond Creek), J. Robinson, A. J. Cook, G. Sell, W. Johnson, H. J. Noonan (Doncaster East), J. H. Lang, C. Wilson, A. Lang, H. M. McLean, L. McLean (Harcourt), D. Peck, A. E. Stanford, E. Street (Mt. Waverley), F. Petty, J. J. Tully, C. Bull, F. Fahey (orchardists), W. Hedditch, W. J. Williamson, F. Williamson, H. M. Williamson (Portland), H. Pump, J. G. Aird (Ringwood), G. E. Shepherd (Somer-ville), W. E. Shepherd, H. Denham, H. J. Willoughby, L. Cole (Tyabb), F. J. Byrne (Wantirna). Others in attendance were: Messrs. J. M. Ward (Superintendent of Horticulture), G. Anderson (Victoria Mark Fruit Co.), G. W. Brown, R. E. Boardman (Victorian Fruit Marketing Association), W. A. Thiele (Southern Fruitgrowers' Association).

The conference was officially opened by Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, M.H.R. Other Parliamentary representatives present were—Messrs. Schofield, M.H.R., W. J. Williamson, M.L.C., and E. E. Bond, M.L.A. Delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Portland, Mr. J. L. Wyatt.

Annual Report.

The chairman, in presenting the annual report, stated that in an endeavour to secure the reduction of interest rates on loans to fruit cool stores a deputation had met Mr. Pitt, Secretary to the Treasury. Interest reduction had been arranged. Some stores were paying from 5 per cent. to 7 per cent.; this interest would be reduced to 4 per cent., as from July 1, 1935. This meant a saving of at least £300.

Sales Tax and Duty: Owing to representations by the executive, most of the equipment now used by cool stores was free from sales tax. Efforts were still

being made to secure omission of sales tax on calcium-chloride and ammonia. An endeavour made to secure a remission of duty on engine replacements was refused on the grounds that these parts were now being manufactured in Australia. A request for removal of duty on red spraying oil had been again refused.

Jam and Canning Fruits: Pleasure was expressed that the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee had fixed different prices for fruit at country canneries from those which metropolitan processors were compelled to pay. These prices allowed for delivery of fruit to metropolitan canneries, there being now no possibility of the latter avoiding payment of full fixed prices by deducting freight and cartage. The committee had also taken action to prevent in future factory agents purchasing fruit on the open market at less than the statutory price.

Duty on Apples Imported: In reply to the association's request for the holding of an enquiry into the rate of duty on Apples imported, the Minister for Customs stated that from 1921-22, 1933-34, total importations into the Commonwealth of fresh Apples were 58 centals, valued at £54. The quarantine restrictions imposed in 1925 were slightly modified in April, 1934, limiting the im-

portation of Apples into the Commonwealth to those grown in districts in New Zealand in which the fireblight did not exist. With this exception, the 1925 quarantine restrictions on Apple importation remained in force.

Other items dealt with by the executive included:—Fruit statistics, fruit-growers' relief grant, protection of growers in connection with proceeds from export consignments, also graphs and tables showing running costs.

Supplies for Affiliated Stores: Although it had been impossible to secure reduced prices for various necessities of stores, one result was that members were now able to purchase anhydrous ammonia at much reduced prices.

The report was received and adopted, as also was the balance-sheet, showing a credit of £121/12/5.

Protection of Growers: Mr. C. J. Parnham read a letter sent by the Victorian Fruit Exporters' Handling Committee to the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association suggesting that the matter of protection of growers re export consignments was largely in the hands of the growers to deal with the established firms in the trade. Continuing, Mr. Parnham said that some growers had sold their fruit at nominally high prices to new companies, but, unfortunately, had not been paid. Seventy per cent. of Victorian fruit was now sold f.o.b. Growers, in their own interests, should make full enquiries, either through their own association, the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association, or a bank, regarding the financial standing of those who sought to do business with them. Unfortunately, too, all growers were not honest, and instances were given of growers obtaining advances under false pretences.

Mr. Parnham recommended that the present Farm Agents' Fidelity Bond be increased from £250 (which was a farce) to £2,500. Further, that a letter be sent to overseas principals asking if they would be prepared to guarantee payments to growers, apart from their Australian representatives.

Mr. McLean, of Harcourt, asked Mr. Parnham that if an unscrupulous per-

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son were to obtain fruit from growers, could he do with the fruit as he liked? Mr. Parnham replied that if the grower had sold the fruit to such a person, the fruit became the property of the purchaser, to do with it what he pleased, and in the case of default, the only remedy the grower had would be through the courts.

As regards consignments, the agent or exporter was in a position of trust, acting simply as a medium between the grower and the overseas principal, and not at any time can the fruit become the property of the agent. The proceeds are remitted in trust for transference to the grower.

Mr. Lang asked if the fidelity bond could be arranged on a sliding scale, according to the amount of business transacted. Mr. Parnham replied that he did not think this would be practicable.

Mr. F. Moore, of Blackburn, stated that in many instances the bond of £2,500 could be easily insufficient to cover liabilities for default, yet it could happen that a man who was an honest exporter might be the victim of unfortunate circumstances.

Growers frequently forced exporters to be speculators with regards to varieties and sizes known to be unsuitable for export.

It was finally decided, on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. J. Stevens, that this conference recognise that the fidelity bond for export agents only, was insufficient and that it be increased to £2,000, and that the executive be requested to consider this matter, and to take any action necessary.

An amendment was moved by Mr. L. Cole, of Tyabb, that the amount of the bond be increased to £1,000, and, after further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr. J. H. Lang moved a hearty vote of thanks to the F.E.H.C., and to Mr. Parnham, stating that the explanation given was most lucid, and it was in the hands of the growers themselves to deal with reputable agents. However, growers should not necessarily turn down any new scheme put before them, just because it was new, but should make all necessary financial enquiries.

The vote of thanks was carried with applause.



Delegates and Visitors to the Annual Conference of the Cool Stores' Association.

Cool Storage Statistics: Mr. F. Moore, vice-president, moved—

"That this conference request the Minister for Agriculture to enforce the collection of monthly statistics showing the quantity of fruit held in cool storage from July 1 to December 1 inclusive."

He stated that quarterly returns were insufficient. Accurate monthly returns were necessary for the information to be of practical service. Similar information from all the States was needed if any proper marketing or advertising scheme were launched. The success of the W.A. Apple Marketing Programme was based on detailed cool storage returns. Mr. L. Cole, vice-president, Tyabb, seconded. The motion was supported by Messrs. W. A. Thiele, J. G. Aird, J. M. Ward and H. J. Willoughby. The motion was carried.

Mr. Willoughby requested that after the compiling of the information it should be made immediately available.

Official Opening: Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, in opening the conference, said that the exemption from sales tax of calcium, chloride and ammonia was an oversight that it was difficult to adjust until the whole subject of sales tax exemptions came before the House again, when this would be attended to. He was going to England next year, and would be glad to assist growers in any way indicated.

Empire Fruit Marketing.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Brown, Australian delegate to the recent Empire Producers' Conference in London, dealt in detail with a plan for the rotational supply of the British Apple market by English growers and the Dominions, each of which in respective seasons would maintain an adequate supply to meet requirements. The Continental market could also be more adequately developed by united understanding between Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia. Marketing success depended upon accurate knowledge. Australia was the only country not represented in Britain by a trained observer. He urged the appointment on

behalf of growers of a representative in England to study overseas markets.

A hearty vote of thanks was conveyed to Mr. Brown, on the resolution of Mr. L. Cole.

Sale of Inferior Fruit.

Mr. C. Wilson, Harcourt, said that windfall and black spot Apples were being purchased by motor truck owners at 9d. per case from local growers, and resold in the country as Harcourt fruit. This was definitely damaging the market for better quality fruit.

Mr. W. A. Thiele urged that all fruit hawkers should be licensed. The licence fee should be a stiff one. The Victoria Mark Fruit Company was endeavouring to effect sales of standard quality fruit under a label. An outlet for the lower-grade fruit had been found at £3 per ton, but insufficient supplies were offering.

Mr. H. M. McLean urged that the standard of Apples be raised, and the sale of lowest grade fruit be eliminated. Hawkers were now selling codlin moth fruit. Recently a "half" case sold to consumers contained 9 lbs. of fruit.

Mr. Ward said that the export standards were the same as for local trade, but the regulation had been interpreted with discretion; prosecutions were launched and convictions recorded each week for breach of regulations. Growers were doing untold harm by selling this inferior fruit.

Mr. G. F. Fankhauser said that many of the growers who sold rubbish were not capable orchardists, others could not afford to manure their orchards. It was difficult to know how to help them, but

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certainly the sale of the inferior fruit should be stopped. Much of the fruit sold on roadsides was of poor quality.

Mr. Moore said that the grading regulations were now being exercised with discretion. Many efficient growers were placing on each load a few cases of definitely inferior fruit, which "paid for the petrol and the driver's breakfast." When caught with under grade fruit, growers frequently denied that it was for sale, and prosecution could only be launched when sale was proved. The regulations should be amended to provide for prosecution where growers or vendors were in possession of under grade fruit. The matter was referred to the executive.

Fancy Grade Export Apples.

Mr. H. J. Willoughby moved that the regulations for fancy grade Apples for export be modified, allowing more slight blemishes in fancy grade, but raising the color requirements. Such would bring the grades in conformity with England and U.S.A. Healed-over stings should not be counted as blemishes. Mr. H. Denham seconded. Mr. Ward said that he approved of Mr. Willoughby's proposal, as at present growers were packing Apples with less color but unmarked in preference to highly colored Apples with slight, healed-over stings. The last-mentioned were good commercial Apples, and suitable for ex-

port under fancy grade. The motion was carried, and it was decided to refer the matter to the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association.

Election of Office-Bearers: Office-bearers were elected, as follows:— President, Mr. J. J. Tully; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. F. Moore and L. Cole; Auditor, Mr. J. W. Barrett; Delegate to Chamber of Agriculture, Mr. F. Petty; Secretary, Mr. H. J. Noonan.

It was decided that affiliation fee remain the same as last year.

Co-operative Insurance.

Mr. Lang introduced a proposal by which a reduction on insurance could be obtained provided all stores placed their insurance with the one company. The matter was referred to the executive.

Horticultural Research.

The Harcourt delegates introduced the subject of experimental orchards and an increase in the departmental scientific staff. The subject was received with enthusiasm, and several vigorous speeches were made. It was estimated that Harcourt lost 150,000 cases this season through black spot and codlin moth.

Mr. Thiele told of the work at Doncaster, where a grower made available a portion of an orchard for experimen-

tal purposes, he being granted £75 per annum for three years for loss of fruit. Twenty-seven different cover sprays had been tried, and now an effective remedy for black spot had been evolved. This was a God-send to the growers. Further research was necessary to eliminate the russetting thereby caused.

Mr. Moore spoke of the valuable work being done by the Department of Agriculture. The department was starved, however, for funds for extension work.

Mr. J. G. Aird stated that despite Victoria having the largest area under fruit its research staff was smaller than those of other States. Some capable officers had also been lost to the State through transfer to other States.

Mr. Ward gave details of the research work being conducted.

On the motion of Messrs. Moore and Aird, it was decided to arrange a joint deputation with the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association, Northern Fruit-growers' Association, Southern Fruit-growers' Association, Chamber of Agriculture and other bodies interested, requesting not less than £5,000 per annum for five years for research work in various parts of the State. It was further decided to support the resolution carried at the Institute of Refrigeration requesting the C.S.I.R. to supplement funds made available to study fruit cool storage.

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Quarterly Meetings: The question of deleting the quarterly meeting in February was referred to the executive.

General Conferences of Growers: Mr. Moore suggested that it might be possible to arrange for the annual conference of the Cool Stores' Association in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association. A mutually agreeable date would be necessary. The autumn appeared to be better than the spring. Mr. Aird commended this suggestion. Mr. W. A. Thiele also spoke in favour of putting forth the idea that the Southern Fruitgrowers could meet in conjunction, and possibly lay the foundation for a united council.

The "Fruit World": Mr. Moore spoke in terms of appreciation of the "Fruit

World," and stated the Blackburn Association had adopted a proposal whereby all shareholders could obtain the "Fruit World" on a co-operative basis. It was decided, on the motion of Messrs. Willoughby and F. Petty, to request all stores to co-operate on a similar basis.

Lantern Lecture: Mr. J. M. Ward gave an illustrated lantern lecture showing aspects of the fruit industry throughout all the Australian States, California and elsewhere, and was cordially thanked.

A happy social event was the official luncheon, at which Mr. J. J. Tully presided. Much harmony prevailed. Various speeches by the Parliamentary representatives and others were appreciated.

chief speaker at the first night session, and read a very informative paper upon "Some Sidelights in the Cold Storage of Fruit," dealing with the function of cold stores, growing and harvesting, pre-cooling, gas storage and post-cooling and the great need for further and continued research. The paper was very favorably commented upon by various speakers, and some points it raised were discussed.

In moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Dr. W. J. Young, Professor of Bio-Chemistry, University of Melbourne, reported that studies have been undertaken, on behalf of the C.S.I.R., by his Department relating to the changes in fruit during storage. The most important factor at the moment is the state of maturity at which the fruit is picked. Of the two, it is better to pick fruit slightly immature, and allow it to ripen after storage rather than being picked over-mature. Pre-cooling is absolutely essential, the quicker you get the temperature down before transport, the longer transport life it will have. Ventilation on the ship is most important, and the temperature should be kept even at all times. They are continuing the various experiments and studies, and hope to discover other factors that will materially improve the handling and distribution of fruit.

At the final meeting of the conference it was decided to alter the name to "The Australian Institute of Refrigeration" and to take steps to establish interstate branches. A resolution has been sent to the Acting Prime Minister, urging Government to extend facilities for scientific research into biological and cold storage problems, particularly as related to fruit and meat. A further recommendation submitted was that a central research station be established as soon as possible.

Refrigeration Problems.

Victorian Institute's Annual Conference.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Victorian Institute of Refrigeration took place at Kelvin Hall, Melbourne, on May 15 and 16. In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, the director (Mr. H. A. Mullett), officially opened the conference and stated that his Department is considerably interested in refrigeration research and the many problems which the Institute is seeking to solve. Much success has been achieved, one noticeable instance being the success that has attended the export of Pears, made possible by pre-cooling and the knowledge of when to pick the fruit for best results, resulting in the export last season reaching some 400,000 cases.

Refrigerating engineers must recognise that scientific means have to be developed that will lengthen the carriage and storage life of fruit and the prevention of moulds and diseases. He wished the conference a successful session.

The President (Mr. R. G. Parsons) welcomed members and visitors from many cool stores and reminded them that the industry of primary production is becoming more important in the commerce of the world, creating an increasing need for food research of all kinds. Large sums of money are being spent each year in advertising food commodities, but he also felt that more should be spent on the facilities for proper storage and transport of such. He would remind them that the latest figures released in Great Britain show that Australia is the best customer of that country out of the three Dominions. The figures show that in 1934 Australia exported to Britain goods worth £50,061,000, and imported from Britain goods

valued at £26,000,000; Canada's figures were exports to Britain £50,400,000 and imports from Britain £19,750,000; New Zealand £40,000,000 and £11,000,000 respectively, so that it is seen that though all Dominions ship heavy supplies to Britain, Australia with a small population, is by far the largest consumer of British manufacturers. We are surely entitled to submit all that we can produce for the London market.

Mr. Gerald Lightfoot attended the conference representing the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and stated that the Council is now carrying out experiments in the transport of fruit in collaboration with other organisations. Unfortunately they have not sufficient capital to go as far as they would like, but so far their investigations have included Bananas in Queensland and Apples in Victoria and Tasmania, and they hope to further the studies for greater success.

Mr. Willis J. Williams, B.Sc., Superintendent of Markets, Sydney, was the

For the Majority



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After all, some sacrifice, some self-discipline is unavoidable if anything worth while is to be gained.

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Specially Constructed REFRIGERATOR VANS carry FRUIT direct from STEAMER to inland destinations by EXPRESS TRAINS.

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THE BEST PRICES. SEND YOUR FRUIT TO HULL.

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Simple rules for attaining highest efficiency in electrically operated ammonia refrigerating plants are given in a booklet to hand from the Electricity Supply Department, 238 Flinders-street, Melbourne. Various sections dealt with in this book include compressor, motors, drive, condenser, expansion system, refrigerant and operation. Copies are available free on request.

THE DUZ-PAK.

A New Retail Package.

American distributors of foodstuffs have long since discovered that sales are increased by packaging goods in handy-sized cartons, hence eggs, mushrooms, berry fruits and other small varieties are so dispensed.

A group of citrus growers in Florida have now introduced the packaging of Oranges and Grapefruit in one-dozen cartons known as "Duz-Pak" which can also be used for Tomatoes, Plums, Cherries and Peaches.

The new package is made of moulded pulp with a partly-open top through which the contents can be seen and ventilation provided. It is expected that these small-size containers will become very popular.

Fruit TreeS Fruit TreeS Fruit TreeS

Best Obtainable—Catalogue Free

Quality first and all the time.

Book Now for Delivery June-July.

Orders reserved.

**John Brunning
and Sons**

Somerville Nurseries,

**Somerville — Victoria
Australia.**

Orchards & Nurseries 208 Acres.

Private Cool Stores, 17,500 Case
Capacity.

Established 1866.

Snow Damage at Batlow.

Severe Set-Back to District.

Repair Methods Described.

MUCH SYMPATHY is felt for growers at Batlow, who suffered great damage to fruit and trees in a heavy snowfall.

By courtesy of Mr. H. V. Smith, general manager, Batlow Packing House and Cool Stores Co-op. Co., and Mr. H. Broadfoot, N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture, we are publishing some pictures showing the damage. Mr. Smith writes as follows:—

The damage undoubtedly was very severe, there being about 8 to 9 inches

7-year-old Apple
Trees, at Batlow,
damaged by
snow.

There is no doubt that production in Granny Smith Apples will suffer severely. The trees that have been badly broken will make strong growth, and within three to five years the production should be evening up again. However, it is a severe set-back to many growers.



Apple Tree damaged by heavy fall of snow.



The same Tree repaired, as described in article.

of snow on a very still night. The Grannies still had the fruit on, and the combined weight of the snow and the fruit was too much for them. The best grown trees suffered the worst, the branches being snapped off a few feet up, and other trees fell right over. Young trees of all varieties at about seven or eight years old stage were split badly down the trunk, many into two and three sections. These have been repaired as follows:—

- (1) The exposed surface painted with Bordeaux paste and then petroleum jelly applied to same.
- (2) When the broken limbs are bolted together the petroleum jelly is forced out, and makes an airtight seal.

SYDNEY SHOW.

Judges in the fruit section at the recent Sydney Show were as follow:— Apples and Pears, Messrs. J. M. Arthur, Hawkesbury Agricultural College; H. Broadfoot and C. G. Savage, Department of Agriculture, Sydney. Other than Apples and Pears, Messrs. J. M. Arthur and R. J. Benton, fruit experts, Department of Agriculture, Sydney.

In the competition for district collection of Apples (£180), collection to be staged in pyramid trophy form, all varieties (not more than 12) to be named, the results were—Hartley Dist. Fruitgrowers' Association (90½ points), Goulburn and District Chamber of Commerce (86 points), Tallong Fruitgrowers' As-

sociation (83½ pts.). Other prize-winners were—J. S. Cripps, W. S. Cripps, R. H. Charles and Sons, P. M. Baaner, T. Youell, R. V. Young, G. E. Philp, Lewis Bros., F. Hudson, A. and E. Vanzella, Morris and Sons, J. G. Hergenhan, P. Gersbach, D. Hay, R. M. Jones & Sons, H. Bird, C. C. Barberie, A. and E. Vanzella, P. Gersbach, E. L. Scrivener, A. J. Hitchcock, R. C. Mobbs, S. E. Allen, T. Milgate and B. Milgate.

N.S.W. FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION.

A big agenda paper faces the annual conference of the N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Federation on June 24 to 27. The items deal with fruit production, distribution, pest control, etc. Already some districts have expressed themselves in favor of the proposed Fruit Marketing Organisation Act, which is along the lines of the Queensland Act. This, however, is strongly objected to on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

BANANA INDUSTRY.

After a lengthy discussion, extending over three days during May on the problems confronting the 'Banana industry, the board of directors of the Banana Growers' Federation Co-op. Ltd., Murwillumbah, N.S.W., issued a statement in relation to the ballot to be taken shortly among the growers on the Marketing Act proposal. The board considers that the possibility of difficult times during the coming summer period is so great that a marketing board should be brought into existence as early as possible.

Indicative of the great expansion of Banana growing during recent times, it is anticipated that the roll of producers will contain more than 3,000 names, embracing the area from Tweed Heads to Kempsey and Taree. It is stated that in the new area south of Coff's Harbor there are nearly 400 growers, whose first crops should be harvested during the coming summer.

VICTORIA—

Fruit Crops and Distribution. Export .. District Notes.

Fruit Crops and Distribution

738,334 Packages Exported to End of April :: 90 Per Cent. of Apples
in Standard Case :: Record Pear Export from Southern Victoria.

INTERESTING NEWS regarding the fruit industry is contained in the monthly report of the Dept. of Agriculture, received early in May, as follows:—

The export season

is almost at an end, and up to April 27 the following quantities of fruit have been exported from Victoria to the United Kingdom and Continent:—Apples, 449,253 bushel cases; Pears, 257,437 bushel cases, 15,416 standard Pear cases, 40 half bushel cases; Plums, 962 bushel cases, 15,224 half bushel cases; and Grapes two cases, making a total of 738,334 packages of all fruits. It would appear that Granny Smith Apple is being exported more each year.

The export of Pears exceeded early anticipations, and it is considered that from the Doncaster district a record export has been forwarded. The wet season has caused the size of the Pears to be somewhat larger, thus increasing the tonnage.

An interesting feature in the export this year is that approximately 90 per cent. of Apple exports have been packed in the standard case (18 in. x 11½ in. x 10½ in.), the remainder being in the "dump" case.

Even with the heavy crop in the southern districts the

fruit buds look well

for next season. Some second growth has occurred here and in other districts, but it has not been general, and next season's crop should not be unduly interfered with as a result of this out-of-season growth.

While the early

broods of codlin moth

were kept well under control, there was an unexpected increase in the late broods. This caused considerable loss, both in infested Apples and to those having only "stings." In the Geelong district, "stings" were very bad in the Rokewood Apples.

Slight plantings of deciduous trees will take place in various districts, chiefly at Swan Hill and Stanhope.

Good prices generally have been realised for Grapes, the harvesting of which is practically over. Walthams and Gordos realised good prices in the Swan Hill area.

CODLIN MOTH BANDS.

Mr. Joseph Unthank, of Somerville (Vic.), recently drew public attention to the value of having chemical bands on trees to assist in checking the codlin moth.

Mr. W. E. Thompson also published a statement to the effect that the chemical bandages were of great value on his orchard at Phillip Island.

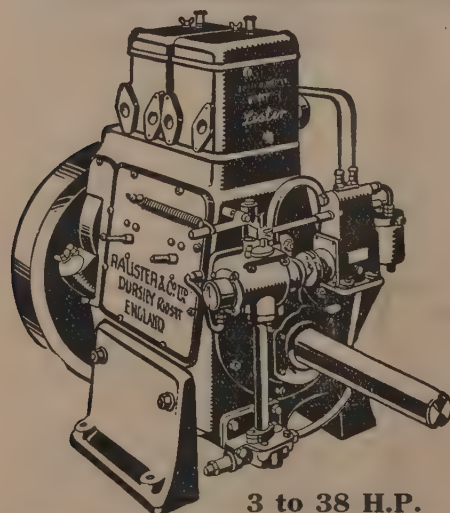
Export from Harcourt

The sending of fruit for export was completed by mid-May. Most of the fruit was sent on an f.o.b. or f.o.r. basis. The original estimates were not fulfilled, owing to the prevalence of black spot. The total for the season was just over 108,000 cases. Last season the quantity was 42,984 cases, the record being in 1933, when 404,514 cases were despatched.

The Marketing Problem.

In this world-famous Apple-growing district growers are confident they are producing varieties which are unnecessarily restricted from being exported.

The "Castlemaine Mail," in an article, suggests that local growers could, with advantage, drop their individual differences and work together as a united body for their own interests. Local committees of the Apple and Pear Council are advocated. Other districts had a uniform brand, whereas with Harcourt there is a multiplicity of brands. Continuing, the article states:—"West Australian orchardists have a system of voluntary marketing, which is working satisfactorily, through a stabilisation of values and improvement in quality. Surely what has been achieved elsewhere could be achieved in Harcourt, if there



3 to 38 H.P.



Crude Oil Engines cut 70% off Fuel Cost

1. Fuel for 3-h.p. costs one penny per hour. 5-h.p. costs 1½d., 7-h.p. 2½d., and up to 38-h.p. as marvellously low. Compare with your costs. It might pay to sell or scrap your present power unit and get a Lister.
2. Starts instantly. A swing of the flywheel and she's off—from dead cold crude oil, too!
3. No starting gadgets—no magneto, no spark plugs, no carburetter—just nothing to give trouble.
4. Absolutely reliable, steady power—suitable for driving anything anywhere.
5. Lister Diesels are EXTRAORDINARY—they are really wonderful engines.

With an engine of poor design and cheap make, the cost for repairs and wasted time will soon bring the price far above a trouble-free, long-lasting Lister.

Ask for information.

Please mention this advertisement.

Mitchell & Co.

PTY. LTD.

West Footscray, Melb.

Showroom: 596 Bourke St.

were unanimity of action by the growers."

Visit of Mr. G. W. Brown.

The visit of Mr. Geoffrey W. Brown, president of the Victorian Fruit Marketing Association, early in May, was much appreciated. Mr. Brown is a fluent speaker, and thoroughly conversant with his subject. He said that we had to grow the varieties which the markets required. He believed that Dunns would regain popularity. Mr. Brown gave details of the Empire fruit marketing policy and the reservation of the British market for periods most suitable for British and Dominion growers. British producers, realising the co-operation of the Dominions, were pressing for a duty of 7/6 per bushel on foreign Apples.

Mr. J. H. Lang submitted that the following varieties should be included in the export list.—Green: Cleo., Dunn's, Granny Smiths, Stewart, London and Stone Pippin, Reinette and Newtown. Colored: Cox's, Delicious, Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Schroeder, Spitzenberg and King David.

In reply to Mr. Lang, Mr. Brown stated that in framing the regulations it was difficult to discriminate between British and Continental buyers.

Harcourt.—For some time past local growers have been seeking the establishment of

an experimental orchard

in this district to deal with disease and pest control, manuring, etc.

Early in May a visit was paid by Messrs. J. M. Ward (Superintendent of Horticulture), and F. M. Read, M.Agr. Sc., Chief Inspector of Orchards, who conferred with local representatives of the growers on this subject.

While the purchase of an orchard for use in experimental work was not deemed possible at this stage, the departmental officers stated they hoped that on several orchards experimental plots would be established, particularly for tests on codlin moth and black spot control.

Trophy for Best Kept Orchard.—The Castlemaine Chamber of Commerce

has been approached to provide a trophy for the best kept orchard, or, alternatively, for the best quality fruit delivered to the packing sheds. Much of the business of the Harcourt orchardists is transacted in the thriving town of Castlemaine, and traders are keenly desirous of seeing the fruit industry prosper.

REMARKABLE FRUIT DISPLAY.

Progressive Action of Portland Shopkeeper.

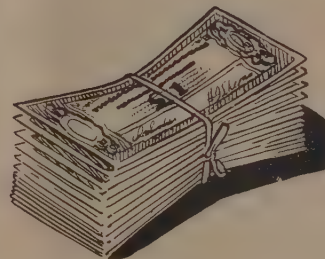
In Portland (Vic.) there are several fruit shops. Seeing that the annual con-

ference of the Orchardists' and Cool Stores' Association was being held at this town on May 21, one enterprising shopkeeper, A. Fisher, made a most attractive display of fruit in the window. Apples predominated. The varieties included: Cleo., Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Dunns, Hoover, Yates, Granny Smith, Nickajack and Delicious. The fruit was neatly displayed in glass bowls separated by paper serviettes having colored designs. The high quality of the fruit, and the bold manner of display at once attracted attention. Pleasing reference to this enterprise was made at the conference, and as a result the shopkeeper did a "roaring" trade; in fact, the whole stock of Cleos was sold out, the growers



Spray in the
WINTER

Save in the
SPRING



No More Spring Spraying for Aphis

"Vallo" Ovicidal Wash applied in Winter—during dormant period of trees—definitely kills all Aphis eggs.

IT IS 100% EFFECTIVE.

Do not wait until Aphis and other insect eggs are hatched in spring, and commence their deadly destruction of young leaves and shoots.

"VALLO" OVICIDAL WASH thoroughly rids trees of moss lichen and rough bark—the winter home of insect pests. "Vallo" Ovicidal Wash effectively controls San Jose, Red Spider, and kills pupae in the ground if spray is allowed to soak in.

Spray with "VALLO" OVICIDAL WASH during the dormant period of the tree, and save your time and money in the spring.

**"VALLO" OVICIDAL
Winter Wash**

VICTOR LEGGO & FARMERS Ltd.
222 Queen Street, Melbourne

Growers should get into touch with
Empire Produce Exports.

PITTS & LEHMAN
129 PITT STREET, SYDNEY

And take advantage of their wide
connection with importing firms in
England, Canada and Europe.

Representatives of—Ridley & Houlding Ltd., London; Mutual Brokers, Montreal; R. & W. Davidson Ltd., London and Glasgow; Roberts Brining & Co. Ltd., London and Glasgow; Thos. Allan & Co. Ltd., Glasgow, and W. Gosley, Hull.

apparently realised' the value of the Cleos quicker than the general public.

The Apples were grown by Mr. Albert Robbins in his orchard at Portland.

Appreciation was expressed by growers for this effective fruit display, with congratulations to Mr. Robbins for the high quality of the fruit.

CHILEAN NITRATE OF SODA.

We have received several booklets dealing with the effects of Chilean nitrates of soda on the soil. The booklets are illustrated, and should prove instructive and interesting to both fruit and vegetable growers. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Agricultural Service, 44 Margaret-street, Sydney.

Selling Apples in Victoria

Haggling at Victoria Market Would be Up-to-date Only in Central Africa.

(To the Editor, "Fruit World.")

Sir,—I have always thought the ways of marketing in Victoria Market are a disgrace to a civilised community. The method (or want of it) of selling by bargaining and haggling is up to date in Central Africa. When fruit comes in quantity, as is natural at certain times of year, buyers stand off until "the market is glutted." Goods are sacrificed at less than cost of production, and a number of speculators reap the benefit. Even under the best of conditions similar quality of fruit has to be sold at varying prices on the one market. This should not be, and the public do not get the benefit. It is the sweating evil over again applied to the producer, who is deserving of at least the same consideration as other branches of the community. Growers are to blame a great deal for competing among themselves under these conditions, and cutting prices, also for not packing to a decent standard of quality. They should be organising to stop the rot that is going on. I have read that in other parts of the world, hard times have driven producers to get together and pull together. It is time we did so here.—Yours etc., A. G. Campbell.

Kilsyth, Vic.,
11/5/35.

FRUIT TRANSPORT by SEA

To Interstate Markets

IN REFRIGERATOR or COOL, WELL VENTILATED 'TWEEN DECK specially adapted for Fruit Carriage and fitted with powerful Electric Fans.

FAST MODERN PASSENGER VESSELS

Sail Twice Weekly to Sydney (Saturdays and Wednesdays).
Sail Weekly to Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns (Saturdays).

CARGO VESSELS sail Weekly for Sydney and Brisbane (Tuesdays).

SPECIAL REDUCED RATES OF FREIGHT.

FURTHER INFORMATION, SAILING DATES, ETC., WILL BE GLADLY SUPPLIED ON APPLICATION TO THE UNDERMENTIONED COMPANIES AT MELBOURNE:—

HOWARD SMITH LTD.

A.U.S.N. CO. LTD.

ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP CO. LTD.

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MELBOURNE STEAMSHIP CO. LTD.

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Service plus Satisfaction

SUNSHINE
MASSEY HARRIS

Implements and Machines for farm, orchard, vineyard, and pasture improvement, have established an enviable reputation for performances under Australian conditions—a reputation that is founded on quality, dependability, and service. It costs nothing to get details of construction, prices and terms. Ask the local agent, or write to the address below.

MASSEY-HARRIS ORCHARD PLOUGH

The popular New Model — with 6-inch steel share, movable handles for ploughing close up under trees, and adjustable to suit height of the user. Ample draught range —



both vertical and horizontal — and a clearance of 21 inches at throat. Cash price, bare, free on trucks Sunshine . . £5/7/3

Illustrated catalogue — free on request — describes a full range of orchard and vineyard implements.

Write for a copy.

H. V. McKAY MASSEY HARRIS PTY. LTD.

SUNSHINE HARVESTER WORKS, SUNSHINE, VIC.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mid-Murray Notes

Extraordinarily Difficult Drying Season
Makes Dehydration Necessary—Importance
of Cover Crops—Remarkable
Results from Adding Sulphur to Soils
in Citrus Groves.

(By Our River Murray Correspondent.)

OUR FRUIT DRYING SEASON is not yet completed, owing to the extraordinary weather throughout the past two months, which has been without precedent in the history of fruit drying on the river irrigation areas.

In spite of the output of between 25 and 30 tons per day from the dehydrator installed by the Renmark Fruit Growers' Co-operated Co., fruit taken in for dehydration by this company has had to be limited to a weekly quota, and this has been based on the amount still remaining on racks and on hessians, and the quota is strictly adhered to. Improvised dehydrators have sprung up in all directions to hasten operations, and all kinds of sheds have been used.

The most unique contrivance adopted is the employment of what is termed the "hot pot" method; this in effect constitutes a brazier placed underneath an inverted galvanised iron tank, and the heat radiated from this tank is sufficient to create a temperature of 120 degrees. A flue is placed in the tank to carry off the smoke, and the fruit is placed around the four sides of the shed. Quite surprising results have been obtained by this means.

Most of the other improvised dehydrators are more or less on orthodox lines of carrying pipes from a furnace and carrying them through the dehydrating chamber. One of the lessons learned by the novice is that ample provision must be made for carrying off the moist air from the heated fruit, and some of us have found that by removing half the roof and substituting a bag curtain better and quicker results were obtained than with a full galvanised iron roof. None of these improvised dehydrators have had fans and engines employed to drive off the dampness, the draught being created solely by the rising heat from below.

Another bugbear to the novice is found in the pitfall of creating too high a temperature. In this case the fruit becomes case hardened, and after a day or two in sweat boxes it is found to contain more moisture than is allowed for packing operations. We have found that the job of dehydration has to be learned in the same way that every other of our operations have to be learned, but the

sincere hope of every grower is that he will never again have to resort to this expedient.

In a normal season no dehydration of any consequence takes place in these areas, but it is estimated that over 40 per cent. of our dried vine varieties will have to be treated this year.

On Wednesday, May 15, Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Ag.Sc., Chief Horticultural Instructor, gave an address to the members of the Block E Agricultural Bureau on the subject matter of "Soils." Mr. Strickland was motored to Renmark from Berri by Mr. F. Arndt, District Horticultural Instructor, and an inspection was made of many blocks on the area.

In the evening the address contained a good deal of reference to experiments carried out at Tresco (Vic.), in which Mr. Strickland was intimately associated, and the experience gained in carrying out these will no doubt prove of great value to us all, especially those dealing with the water-absorbing capacity of winter crops of Legumes and summer crops of Soudan Grass.

The Block E settlers, on the whole, are comprised of soldier settlers, and are among our most modern growers in cultural methods, and are not slow to adopt new practices if they appeal to their common sense. Almost the whole area is planted with cover crops, and in the course of his remarks, Mr. Strickland said that the value of cover crops had been fully grasped by River settlers as a body, and that nowhere else in the State had he seen the practice so universally adopted.

Citrus and Sulphur.

A good deal of interest has been aroused among citrus growers regarding some Californian experiments by the application of sulphur for creating a better soil balance. An article which appeared in the "California Cultivator" points out that many citrus groves have been improved beyond recognition by applying up to 1,000 lbs. per acre. Not only have the trees improved in appearance, but benefits extending over many years have been created by additional crops. Determinations have first been made on the pH of the soil, which

indicates the alkaline reaction, and, where the alkalinity was found to be high, the application of sulphur has reduced this alkalinity to an extent more in keeping with the requirements of the citrus tree.

It was found that a pH of 8.2 was too high in lime for trees to give best results, and by applying about 1,000 lbs. per acre the pH was reduced to 7.2. A neutral soil is about 7.0, and anything below that point is classed as an acid soil.

From the experiments which have been carried out over a number of years, the indications are that the ideal condition of a soil for best production of citrus is in the vicinity of a neutral character, or as, indicated, at about pH 7.0. We are further told that in a soil of this condition, such plant foods as phosphoric acid and potash are more readily available, which in turn creates a better soil balance than one of a highly alkaline nature.

The pH of a soil is easily determined by a soil analyst, and anyone wishing to try a little experiment of their own could do so without any trouble.—"Nemo."

Renmark, 20/5/35.

South Australian Fruit Marketing Association

The monthly meeting of the executive of the S.A. F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on April 26. There were present Messrs. A. G. Strickland, R. G. Hannaford, M. Vickers, R. O. Knappstein, J. B. Randell, E. S. Mason, M. G. Basey, A. R. Willsmore, D. Norsworthy, P. R. B. Searcy, and the Secretary (E. W. Mills). Apologies received from Messrs. H. N. Wicks, H. J. Bishop and R. S. McDougall.

In the absence of the president, Mr. J. B. Randell was elected chairman.

Correspondence. Letter from Government Produce Department giving extract from Trade Commissioner's report, dated February 28, London, re U.K. fruit marketing scheme. Letter from Australian Apple and Pear Export Council enclosing copy of correspondence from Department of Commerce re "French Import Licence Tax," and "Norwegian Duties" on Fresh Apples and Pears.

Early Shipments. The question of restricting early shipments of Apples was discussed informally.

Sturt Producers' Society Ltd. An application for membership from the Sturt Producers' Society Ltd., of which Mr. F. B. James is secretary, was placed before the meeting, and it was unanimously resolved that they be elected members.

Granny Smith Apples in Cold Storage

Tests for Scald in Western Australia by Illawarra Orchard Ltd.,
Karragullen

Value of Early Picking and Delayed Storage

UNDER THE AUSPICES of the Western Australian Apple Sales Board, some very interesting tests with Granny Smith Apples in cold storage were carried out by the Illawarra Orchard, Karragullen, W.A., last season.

Details are as follows:—

Eight cases picked each week for five weeks, off same trees, as under:—

4 cases 2½ inch size.

4 cases 2½ inch size.

One case 2½ in. wrapped in oiled wraps and stored immediately (three days later).

One case 2½ in. wrapped in grease-proof paper and stored immediately.

One case 2½ in. left in shed for 17 days and then wrapped in oiled wraps and stored.

One case 2½ in. left in shed 17 days and then wrapped in grease-proof paper and stored.

Same arrangements are for 2½ inch.

Pickings were made on April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4.

Temperature maintained in store—32 degrees—34 degrees.

All Apples brought out of store on September 24 and examined on September 27.

Average period of storage approximately five months.

Oiled wraps (sulphite paper oiled) in common use 1933-34 seasons.

Grease-proof paper (American K.V.P. manufacture).

It was intended to pick the Apples off trees average for the orchard, but when three (3) pickings were made, it was noticed that the Apples were not as mature as Apples off other Granny Smith trees, by about one week. Therefore, to compare dates with other orchards, it would be necessary to back date the pickings by one week.

However, it does not affect the value of these tests. One extra (5th) picking was made, whereas it was intended to make only four (4) pickings.

Tests.

- (1) Oiled wraps versus grease paper.
- (2) Smaller Apples versus larger Apples.
- (3) Early picking and storing versus later picking and storing.
- (4) Early picking and delayed storage versus later picking and immediate storage, etc.

Results.

(1) It is no advantage using the dearer grease paper (in comparison with oiled wraps) for intermediate and late pickings, and it is distinctly a disadvantage using grease paper for very early pickings.

Compare Nos.—

1 with 2, 3 with 4, 5 with 6.

21 with 22, 23 with 24, 25 with 26.
(2) In most instances the larger Apples (2½ in.) developed more scald than smaller Apples (2½ in.) in the early pickings only.

Compare Nos.—

1 with 21, 2 with 22.

3 with 23, 4 with 24.

5 with 25, 6 with 26.

7 with 27,

(3 and 4) Early picking and delayed storage were much better than early picking and immediate storage.

Compare Nos.—

1 with 3, 2 with 4.

5 with 7, 6 with 8.

21 with 23, 22 with 24.

It would appear that early pickings and delayed storage is better than a later intermediate picking and immediate storage.

Compare Nos.—

3 with 9, 4 with 10.

7 with 13, 8 with 14.

23 with 29, 24 with 30.

Remarks.

The later the pickings the lighter green in color of the Apples, definitely becoming more yellow-green towards last picking.

First picking immediate storage were very green ex store.

First picking delayed storage, not so green as above.

In Preparing Your Bordeaux Sprays Use . . .

ESA BLUESTONE

Manufactured by

The Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Company of Australia Limited
PORT KEMBLA, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Right Material for Plant Disease Prevention and Control
GUARANTEED 99% PURITY

GRADES—Mixed Crystals, Fines, Granulated (Snow), Packed in Suitable Containers for Growers' Requirements.

Agents for All States: **ELDER SMITH & COMPANY LIMITED**, All Capital Cities.

BOOKLET—"Better Yields by Spraying with E S A Bluestone" obtainable on application to Elder Smith & Company Ltd.

Fifth picking delayed storage—a proportion of Apples too yellow and light in color for the trade.

Taking into consideration lack of scald and the greenish color of the Apples which the trade requires, it would appear that the third picking delayed storage was the best.

It would probably be advantageous to delay storage by at least three weeks when intending to keep Granny Smiths for very late market (November and December). This would mean picking about April 15 in a normal season, and wrapping and storing about May 6.

Generally speaking, BAD DEEP

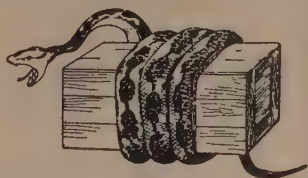
SCALD did not develop after the second picking.

SLIGHT DEEP SCALD would probably become worse within seven days, and become unmerchantable.

SUNBURN SCALD.—A proportion of the Apples classed as Sunburn scald were only very slightly affected, and would be quite saleable.

No. of Apples Examined	No. of Picking	Date of Picking	Storage	Date of Storage	Size of Apple	Kind of Paper	No. of Apples Examined	No. O.K.	Deep Bad	Scald Slight	Scald like Sunburn	Pit.	Other Rejects not attributed to scald or Pit.	Scald Total	Percentages	
															Scald	Non-Scald
1	1st	6th April	Immed.	9th April	2½	O.W.	132	52	52	28	—	—	—	80	39.39	60.61
2	1st	Do.	Do.	9th April	2½	G.P.	132	25	67	40	—	—	—	107	18.94	81.06
3	1st	Do.	Delayed	23rd April	2½	O.W.	140	134	—	4	—	1	—	4	2.86	97.14
4	1st	Do.	Do.	23rd April	2½	G.P.	132	126	1	3	1	1	—	5	3.79	96.21
5	2nd	13th April	Immed.	16th April	2½	O.W.	126	114	2	8	—	2	—	10	7.94	29.06
6	2nd	Do.	Do.	16th April	2½	G.P.	132	68	22	39	2	1	—	63	47.73	52.27
7	2nd	Do.	Delayed	30th April	2½	O.W.	144	141	—	1	2	—	—	1	2.08	97.92
8	2nd	Do.	Do.	30th April	2½	G.P.	144	142	—	1	—	1	—	1	.07	99.03
9	3rd	20th April	Immed.	23rd April	2½	O.W.	140	131	—	3	6	—	—	9	6.43	93.57
10	3rd	Do.	Do.	23rd April	2½	G.P.	144	135	—	1	8	—	—	9	6.25	93.75
11	3rd	Do.	Delayed	7th May	2½	O.W.	144	134	—	—	6	—	4	6	4.17	95.82
12	3rd	Do.	Do.	7th May	2½	G.P.	144	135	—	—	7	—	2	7	4.86	95.14
13	4th	27th April	Immed.	30th April	2½	O.W.	144	134	—	—	9	—	1	9	6.25	93.75
14	4th	Do.	Do.	30th April	2½	G.P.	144	129	—	1	14	—	—	15	10.42	89.58
15	4th	Do.	Delayed	14th May	2½	O.W.	144	134	—	—	10	—	—	10	6.96	93.04
16	4th	Do.	Do.	14th May	2½	G.P.	144	138	—	—	6	—	—	6	4.17	95.82
17	5th	4th May	Immed.	7th May	2½	O.W.	72	68	1	—	3	—	—	4	5.55	94.45
18	5th	Do.	Do.	7th May	2½	G.P.	72	66	1	—	5	—	—	6	8.33	91.67
19	5th	Do.	Delayed	21st May	2½	O.W.	72	68	—	—	4	—	—	4	5.55	94.45
20	5th	Do.	Do.	21st May	2½	G.P.	72	66	—	—	6	—	—	6	8.33	91.67
21	1st	6th April	Immed.	9th April	2½	O.W.	108	87	8	12	1	—	—	21	19.44	80.56
22	1st	Do.	Do.	9th April	2½	G.P.	120	41	50	28	1	—	—	79	65.83	34.17
23	1st	Do.	Delayed	23rd April	2½	O.W.	108	103	—	4	—	1	—	4	3.76	96.24
24	1st	Do.	Do.	23rd April	2½	G.P.	108	97	1	7	2	—	1	10	9.26	90.74
25	2nd	13th April	Immed.	16th April	2½	O.W.	108	87	—	17	1	—	3	18	16.66	83.33
26	2nd	Do.	Do.	16th April	2½	G.P.	108	41	14	53	—	—	—	67	62.04	37.96
27	2nd	Do.	Delayed	30th April	2½	O.W.	108	104	—	4	—	—	—	4	3.70	96.30
28	2nd	Do.	Do.	30th April	2½	G.P.	108	100	1	4	—	1	2	5	4.63	95.37
29	3rd	20th April	Immed.	23rd April	2½	O.W.	108	100	—	6	7	—	1	7	6.48	93.52
30	3rd	Do.	Do.	23rd April	2½	G.P.	108	97	—	—	5	—	—	11	10.19	89.81
31	3rd	Do.	Delayed	7th May	2½	O.W.	108	103	—	—	4	1	—	4	3.70	96.30
32	3rd	Do.	Do.	7th May	2½	G.P.	108	95	2	—	11	—	—	13	12.04	87.96
33	4th	27th April	Immed.	30th April	2½	O.W.	108	106	—	—	1	—	1	1	.93	99.07
34	4th	Do.	Do.	30th April	2½	G.P.	108	103	—	—	4	—	—	4	3.70	96.30
35	4th	Do.	Delayed	14th May	2½	O.W.	112	102	—	—	10	—	—	10	8.93	91.07
36	4th	Do.	Do.	14th May	2½	G.P.	120	112	—	—	8	—	—	8	6.67	93.33
37	5th	4th May	Immed.	7th May	2½	O.W.	108	103	—	—	3	—	2	3	2.78	97.22
38	5th	Do.	Do.	7th May	2½	G.P.	108	97	—	—	10	—	1	10	9.26	90.74
39	5th	Do.	Delayed	21st May	2½	O.W.	107	101	—	—	4	—	2	4	3.73	96.27
40	5th	Do.	Do.	21st May	2½	G.P.	108	105	—	—	2	—	—	3	2.78	97.22

PYTHON



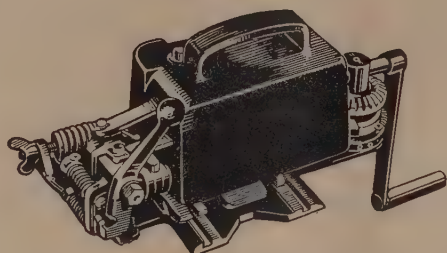
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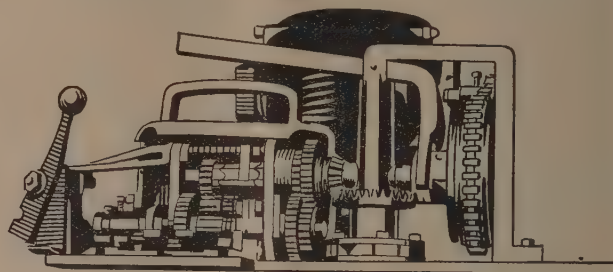
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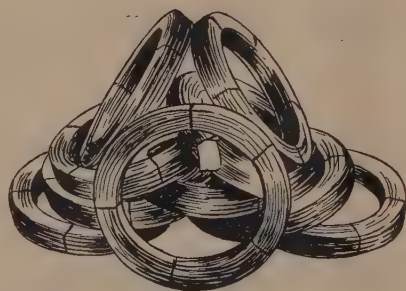


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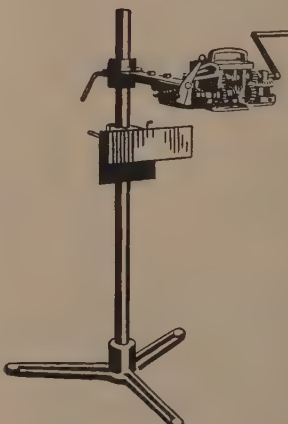
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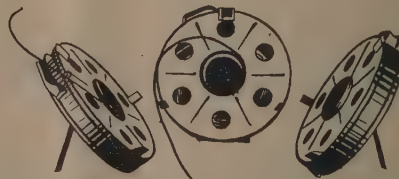
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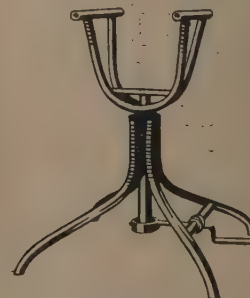
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Cross Pollination of Cherries

(By F. T. Bowman, N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture.)



Cherry Varieties Un-
fruitful With Own
Pollen.

Inferior Strains Have
Arisen Even With
Proved Varieties.

Hints on Reworking
Cherry Trees.

CHERRY GROWING and the necessity for correct pollination forms the subject of some valued comments by Mr. F. T. Bowman, of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, who states as follows:

Reviewing the progress of Cherry-growing in this State one sees that there has been a progressive reduction in the number of varieties grown. The old orchards, the pioneers of Cherry culture, in different districts, contained many varieties, freely interplanted, and gave satisfactory crops. Experience with these numerous varieties showed that some were more suited to local soil and climate conditions; they carried to market more satisfactorily, or for other reasons were more profitable than others, and later plantings were confined to these.

Solid Blocks Unsatisfactory.

Thus in the marked expansion of Cherry planting which occurred just after the war the number of varieties planted was limited, being confined mainly to Early Lyons, Florence and St. Margaret, each being planted mainly in solid blocks. These trees are now of good bearing age, but in a number of instances have failed to crop satisfactorily.

Our experiments on self and cross pollination now indicate that the limitation of varieties to those selected in the later planting, as well as the method of block planting, has resulted in a serious curtailment of cross pollination facilities, and that better bearing is to be expected when the facilities are improved.

The necessity for cross pollination arises out of the fact that Cherry varieties are unfruitful with their own pollen. This has been shown to be the case for Early Lyons, Florence, St. Margaret and Noble.

Our experiments have also shown that the degree of fruitfulness obtained on cross pollination depends upon the variety used as a polliniser; some varieties are good pollinisers, whilst others are poor. In this connection the most important fact is that Early Lyons, Florence and St. Margarets are poor pollinisers for each other. Thus, where these alone are growing, the pollination

facilities are poor, and this is reflected in poor bearing.

Worse than poor pollinisers, some varieties fail entirely to pollinate others.

St. Margaret, Noble and Republican form an example of an intersterile group pollination among the varieties of which results in unfruitfulness.

In our experiments 15 different varieties have been tested for their effect on the main varieties.

Referring to Early Lyons, more than a thousand self pollinations have shown it to be self sterile. It is best pollinised by Early Rivers, Burgdorff, Early Purple Gean and Eagle. From

the commercial aspect,

Burgdorff and Early Rivers are considered the best in such early districts as Lakesland, the Oaks and Yung, whilst Eagle is the most suitable variety in the later districts like Orange and Uralla.

A number of other varieties, including Napoleon, Bleeding Heart and Florence, were found to pollinate Early Lyons satisfactorily, but in practise these are of limited use, because they do not synchronise with Early Lyons in their blossoming periods, as do those varieties first-named.

St. Margaret was found to be a poor polliniser. This fact is mentioned because sometimes St. Margaret will overlap the blossom of Early Lyons by a few days, and may be thought to be effecting cross pollination, whereas its effect for this purpose is only slight.

A good number of

varieties have been tested

out on St. Margaret, like Early Lyons and Florence; this variety was found to set no fruit with its own pollen. It is satisfactorily pollinated by the variety called Common or white Bigarreau, which is also known as Late Mottled Bigarreau. Bleeding Heart and Eagle are other varieties which are good pollinisers for St. Margaret. The limitation of these varieties is that they are mid-season bloomers, and may not overlap St. Margaret, particularly in some years.

St. Margaret is intersterile with Noble and Republican, very poorly pollinised by Early Lyons, and indifferently so by Florence, Bing and Black Eagle. At least some strains of Napo-

leon are also indifferent pollinisers, whilst others, it has been observed in the Orange district, are useful.

The variety Napoleon has shown some degree of self-fruitfulness, and in N.S.W. it is noted for its good cropping capacities. It is highly cross fruitful with Eagle and Florence.

Florence is self-sterile. Further testing is necessary to establish the best pollinisers for it. Observations in the different districts are to the effect that it is poorly pollinised by St. Margaret, but satisfactorily by Napoleon.

Cherry Tests Abroad.

A good deal of attention has been given to the pollination requirements of Cherry varieties in England, America and Germany. The varieties used, however, are different to the principal varieties in N.S.W., and thus the results of oversea work are not directly applicable to our conditions. The experience of other countries is in conformity with our own on the main points, viz:—(1) That Cherries varieties are wholly or partially self-sterile and do not yield full crops with their own pollen; (2) that good and poor pollinisers for any particular sort are found, and (3) that intersterile groups occur.

A further fact arising out of both English and American work is that, in some of the varieties which have been investigated the trees are not identical and

strains have arisen

for the reason that seedlings very closely resembling the parent variety have been propagated under the name of the latter. This fact, coupled with the dissemination of varieties wrongly named and the mixing of nursery stock has led to a good deal of confusion about the identity of Cherry varieties.

From observation and pollination tests in N.S.W., strains of Early Lyons, Napoleon and Republican are believed to exist. In Early Lyons there are distinct upright and weeping strains; the former sometimes, but not always, go under the name of Ramen Olivia and of Chapman.

In nursery stock

St. Margaret, Republican and Noble have sometimes been confused, and planted as St. Margaret. It is necessary to clearly distinguish between St. Margaret and Noble, as they have already shown quite different pollinating behaviour, and the same possibly applies as between St. Margaret and Republican.

In Napoleon, individual trees have been observed to show different abilities in cross pollinating St. Margaret.

The foregoing is mentioned not only to stress the importance of securing varieties true to name, but to show that in selecting bud-wood for working in pollinisers, every care should be taken to obtain it from trees which have exhibited the desired pollinating ability.

(Continued on page 324)



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CITRUS — NEWS AND NOTES

Citrus Fruit Prospects in N.S.W.

Crops Reduced by Dry Weather

THE FOLLOWING SURVEY of conditions prevailing during April, 1935, in the citrus orchards of N.S.W., including those within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, is based upon reports of Fruit Inspectors (Field Officers of the Department of Agriculture) and citrus growers, acting as honorary crop correspondents, situated throughout the districts under review.

In coastal areas dry weather has had an adverse effect on trees and fruit. Earlier in the season prospects were most favorable to good development, but later conditions appear to have retarded growth of all varieties of citrus fruit. Navels, Silettas and Mandarins are being marketed in increasing quantities.

A. A. WATSON,
Director of Marketing.

Sydney, May 10, 1935.

District Reports.

Gosford:

The very dry weather has seriously retarded the development of the greater percentage of citrus fruit. At Lisarow trees are wilting; growers are arranging for partial irrigation.

With Navels generally size is below normal.

Development of most Valencia's unsatisfactory (some reports indicate good progress to date).

Common Orange trees are being replaced by more suitable varieties, Joppas, and Silettas need rain to improve size.

The Lemon main crop varies from moderate to good. Curing operations are being carried out, and some marketing is taking place. Owing to adverse weather, there is much under-sized fruit.

Wyang:

Navels under-sized. Valencia's badly need rain (premature ripening in some locations). White Silettas are very forward.

Mandarin crop light, and, in common with Lemons, backward in development.

The sizing of all citrus fruit adversely affected by the dry weather during April.

Windsor-Richmond:

Large quantities of Navels, principally Thompson's, are being marketed, but the fruit has not sized as well as was expected. A heavy crop is in sight,

and a continuous supply is expected to be available for some months.

Valencias on elevated situations are not developing satisfactorily, owing to the continued dry weather, but the fruit in river groves has not been affected. A good crop is in sight, but rain is badly needed. Silettas are being harvested in fair quantities, but these, as well as most other Common Oranges, have failed to develop satisfactory size.

Sevilles light, but the fruit developing satisfactorily.

Mandarins heavy in river orchards, but dry conditions have adversely affected the size and quality of the fruit.

Lemons, fair; Grape-fruit beginning to color, and is of finer texture than usual.

Hills District:

Dry, cool and windy conditions adversely affected trees and fruit.

Generally, Navels have not developed well; small percentage shows hail mark. Valencia's, fair average crop, but lack of moisture serious. Commons, backward, and patchy; in the event of rain a fairly heavy shedding likely.

The Mandarin crop is not expected to harvest as well as was anticipated earlier.

Lemons, fair to good; in most groves fruit filling fairly well; in others premature coloring noticeable.

Grape-fruit crops patchy; in odd instances good yields are in sight, but the fruit is mostly of small size.

Good rain is badly needed.

Kurrajong:

Generally Valencia's are sizing and coloring satisfactorily.

Hail damage to Valencia's in some groves, but development appears to be good. Although some of the Common Oranges are inclined to be small, a good percentage is well grown.

Sevilles medium crop.

The heavy Mandarin crop suffered severe damage from hail storms in the Grose Vale locality; some growers are reported to have lost 50 per cent. of their crops.

Second crop Lemons being marketed; main crop fruit showing color.

Hawkesbury:

Navels colored well; sugar content fairly good and size satisfactory. In some locations Valencia's filling out

well, but in others fruit undersized. Silettas being harvested freely; other Commons filling out, and coloring.

Early varieties of Mandarins, viz., Oonshi and Imperial, mostly harvested. Emperors going to market. At Wiseman's Ferry young trees are carrying heavy crops of medium size fruit.

Parramatta, Seven Hills, Emu Plains:

In some locations, development of Navels satisfactory; but in others fruit not up to expectations.

Valencia and Common showing the need of rain, particularly around Seven Hills.

Mandarin crops generally patchy, Imperials from Emu Plains being marketed.

The main crop Lemons filling out nicely.

Maitland, Moorland, Milbrodale, Etc.:

Very dry and wintry conditions were experienced during April.

Navels being marketed from the Milbrodale district.

Valencias show effects of dry weather. At Moorland crops light; in other centres medium to heavy.

Commons patchy, light to good. Around Branxton Mandarins light, but in most other localities fairly good yields expected. The Lemon crop is mostly satisfactory.

Narromine:

Mild, dry conditions were fairly general, only about one inch of rain being experienced during April.

Both Navels and Valencia's are developing well. The former fruit promises to be of average size and of good quality; marketing commenced about mid-May. Commons (mostly Joppas) benefited by irrigation during late March and early April.

Average yields of excellent quality Marsh's Grape-fruit should be harvested.

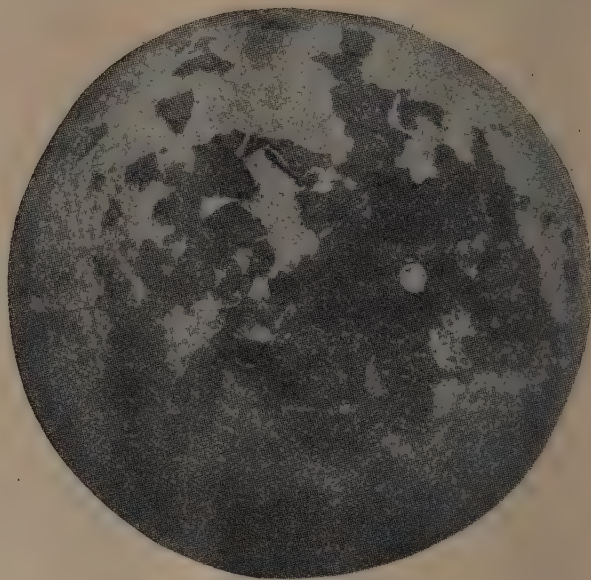
Forbes:

The Navel trees in this district have just recovered from the damage caused by grasshoppers earlier in the season. The fruit remaining on the trees is coloring rapidly, but quality does not appear to be satisfactory.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area:

No change is reported in prospects. The Navel crop is medium to light. Valencia's generally are carrying heavier crops than the former variety, but, owing to mature fruit of the last crop being left on trees until late in this season, yields will be much lighter than those of last year.

GUARD AGAINST SCALE !



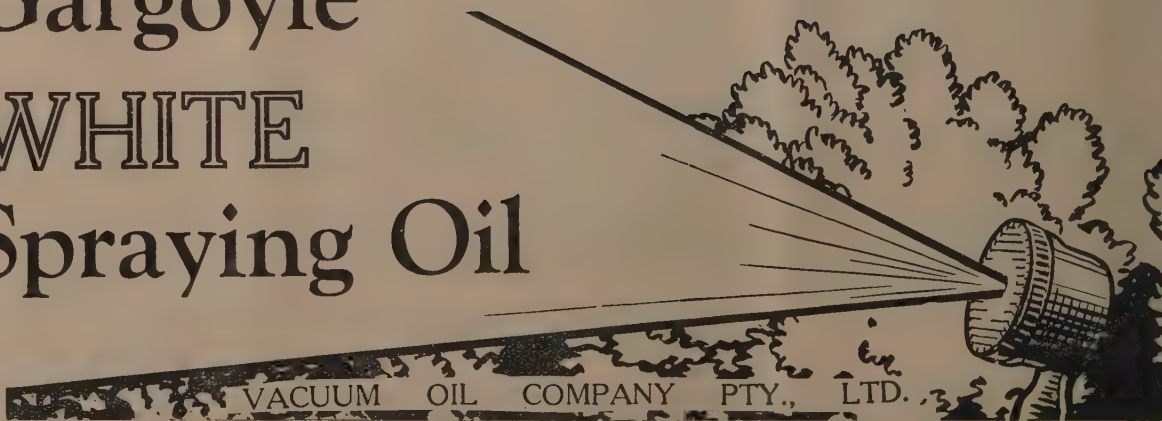
*NOTE.—The above is not a picture of the mountains of the Moon,
it is an actual photograph of Scale on an Orange.*

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Citrus Crops in Victoria.

Navels and Valencia's Showing Good Crops.

Good crops of both Navels and Valencia's are expected from most districts, and a fair Lemon crop is also anticipated.

In the Mildura and Swan Hill districts the current season's crop is coloring well. The Oonshi Mandarins are sweetening rapidly, and will soon be on the market.

Encouraged by good prices realised for Valencia's last season, a number of growers are planting more trees of this variety.

Queensland.

Citrus Crop Prospects.

In the coastal districts spring rains were generally late, and this factor was responsible for patchy blossomings. Moderate crops of Oranges and Mandarins are set.

The Gayndah district experienced more favorable rains, and in this locality good crops of Oranges and Mandarins are setting.

Up to December crop prospects were excellent, but unfortunately hailstorms visited several citrus districts, and were responsible for heavy losses.

As a result of adverse conditions the Orange and Mandarin crop is only light. Good samples of Navels and Emperor Mandarins are appearing on the market.

Summer Lemon crop was of excellent quality, and realised satisfactory prices. —H. Barnes, Director of Fruit Culture, Department of Agriculture, Brisbane, 23/5/35.

Orange Export Bounty.

Two Shillings Per Case Granted—System is Said to be Preferable to that of Guaranteeing Expenses.

The Federal Government has decided to grant a bounty of 2/- a case on Oranges exported overseas this season.

On this subject, Mr. J. A. Parkes, adviser to the Federal Citrus Council, states that though this bounty is preferable to the previous system of guaranteeing out of pocket expenses, it would not satisfy all the States. For instance, N.S.W. had asked for a bounty of 3/6 a case, and in view of the smaller sum would probably not ship heavily. On the other hand, the 2/- bounty would be readily accepted in South Australia: the bounty was really an incentive to export higher class fruit than was sent under the previous system of guaranteeing expenses.

An early estimate is that 170,000 cases will be exported overseas.

Citrus Industry.

Financial Assistance by Commonwealth Government.

THE Commonwealth Government has announced its desire to assist the citrus industry during the 1935 export season by payment of a bounty of 2/- per export case of 1½ bushels on all Oranges exported during this year to the United Kingdom.

During the past two years the Government has guaranteed to exporters of Oranges the reimbursement of their out-of-pocket marketing expenses up to a maximum of 13/- per export case. In 1933 the fruit carried well, and the expenditure incurred owing to guarantee was £3,000. In 1934 much of the fruit carried badly, and the cost to the Government is in the neighbourhood of £20,000. This year the guarantee system is being replaced by the export bounty. Dr. Page made it clear that this arrangement will not be continued beyond 1935.

Red Scale on Citrus.

Growers and Vendors Liable to £50 Fine in N.S.W.

OWING TO DISREGARD of the law regarding red scale on citrus fruit the Minister for Agriculture has issued a warning.

All owners and occupiers of land upon which is any fruit tree infected with red scale are required either to spray the trees with a mixture of miscible oil and water at a strength sufficient to kill the scale and see that the spray comes in contact with every part of the tree, or else to fumigate for a period of at least 45 minutes with hydrocyanic acid gas, generated under a cover of calico or canvas in a sufficient quantity to kill the scale.

The sale of infected fruit and the failure to carry out the control measures mentioned are both offences for which a penalty of £50 may be imposed.

Citrus Fruit for Tasmania.

Must be Grown at Least a Mile from Fruit Fly Area.

Notification has been received from the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture to the effect that citrus fruit forwarded to that State is subject to conditions similar to those formerly applying to fruit consigned to New Zealand.

Persons forwarding citrus fruit to Tasmania must, therefore, obtain a certificate that there is no fruit fly in the orchard on which the fruit was grown, nor within a mile radius thereof. Application for such certificates should be made to the Export and Import Branch, Department of Agriculture, Day-street, Sydney.

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California to Increase Shipments.

Inspired by the promised bumper movement of Californian Valencia Oranges to the United Kingdom and Continental markets from April to October, the 13 foreign flag European-Pacific steamship lines will operate a record fleet of 27 refrigerated freight and passenger vessels out of San Francisco to Europe during the season, a survey made recently indicated.

Advance reports are that the Valencia movement this year will practically double last season's total of 1,300,000 boxes. As further stimulus, the European-Pacific steamship owners' conference has cut the freight rate to 3/9 per case, a reduction of fivepence.

Citrus in N.S.W.

The latest report from the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture states that dry conditions in coastal districts adversely affected the sizing of citrus fruits. In many groves the trees are showing signs of wilting, and in some instances the fruit is not holding well.

Marketing of Mandarins, Navels and Silettas is being carried out, and the quantities reaching the market are increasing.

Irymple, May 22.—Oranges railed this week totalled 2,108 boxes, making the season's total 4,347 boxes. So far 464 boxes of Lemons have gone forward.



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New South Wales News and Notes

N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Federation

AT THE APRIL MEETING of the Board of the N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Federation, members stood in silence in memory of the late Mr. C. A. Holswich, who had passed away on March 26.

Details regarding the citrus conference were dealt with, also a conference regarding inspection of Apples and Pears for export.

Owing to the expense and delay when Apples were rejected at wharf-side, suggestions were made for a system of country inspection.

The Department of Agriculture wrote suggesting the fixing of a juice standard of 25 per cent. for Lemons, in order to protect the industry from the ill effects due to the marketing of dry Lemons. After discussion it was decided to request that the standard be fixed at 20 per cent., and to be raised later if justified by experience.

Parramatta.—At the Cumberland district conference of the N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Conference on May 8, the practice of the City Council in charging double rates for stands in the City Markets was condemned; i.e., where two growers sold from one stand both had to pay the 2/- fee.

The continued use of the system of returnable cases was approved. The difficulty of branded cases being used for inferior fruit was recognised.

Delegates elected to represent the district at the annual general conference of the Federation were — Messrs. Basidow, Robinson, Alexander, James, Langlands, Haerse, Black, Kennett, Chisholm and Arundel. Board members for the ensuing year elected were Messrs. James and Haerse.

Moorland.—Mr. A. H. Watson presided over the Central Rivers sub-district conference of the N.S.W. Fruitgrowers' Federation on May 18. In addition to local growers there were in attendance Messrs. E. E. Herrod (Federation secretary) and L. T. Pearce (market representative), A. Taylor, A. Howarth (Maitland). Resolutions carried urged closer attention to the fruit fly menace, the expediting of the promised freight reduction, and that under the proposed Marketing Act growers be given one vote for 20 acres, and an additional vote for over 20 acres. Messrs. W. Watson and P. Everingham were elected delegates to the annual conference.

Bananas in N.S.W.

Poll to be Taken Under Primary Products Act.

Growers Must Register by June 7.
Polling Day, June 29.

BANANA GROWERS in N.S.W. will decide on June 29 as to whether a Banana Marketing Board shall be constituted under the Marketing of Primary Products Act. Growers cultivating two acres and over are entitled to vote.

A preliminary roll was prepared and exhibited in prominent places as from May 24 to June 7. Growers must enrol with the Director of Marketing, Department of Agriculture, Sydney, on or before June 7.

N.S.W. FRUITGROWERS' FEDERATION.

Annual Conference, Sydney,
June 25-28.

The annual general conference of the Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W. will be held at Sydney on June 25, 26, 27 and 28. A large attendance of growers from all parts of the State is anticipated.

SNOW DAMAGE AT BATLOW.

An unusually early snow fall (in mid-April) caused considerable damage to trees and fruit at Batlow, N.S.W. Late maturing Apples, and particularly Granny Smiths' suffered most.

The combined weight of snow and fruit caused many hundreds of trees to collapse under the strain, with the result that some years must elapse before they return to full productive capacity.

N.S.W. BANANAS.

Although there is a decline in marketings from some areas, states the latest report from the Department of Agriculture, it is noticeable that production continues to be heavy from others. On good slopes near sea level in the Tweed Heads district, bunches that set during November are now being cut, while September and October bunches are still being harvested.

In the Lismore district a number of plantations set out during season 1933-34 are approaching maturity, and will

assist in increasing supplies. Around Murwillumbah a decrease in marketable fruit was indicated for May.

Fruit from young plantations will be coming forward from the Valla, Bowraville and Taylor's Arm localities.

Fruit Tree Root Weevil

A Serious Pest in N.S.W.

THE FRUIT TREE ROOT WEEVIL is a common and serious pest of Orange, Apple, Peach, Plum and other fruit trees, states the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture. The damage is caused mainly by the larvae, or grubs, which in feeding upon the roots of the trees gouge out deep furrows, thus interfering with the normal supply of sap and checking the growth of the trees. The limbs of infested trees eventually become unproductive and may even die back, in which case a temporary new growth is thrown out from the butts of the trees. If the infestation continues the trees eventually die, and even whole orchards may be destroyed where the beetles are allowed to remain unchecked for a number of years.

Growers, particularly in districts where this pest is known to occur, are urged to

keep a close watch

for any indication of the presence of these weevils. If the trees become thin in foliage or sickly looking, or if some of the branches are not making new growth, the presence of this pest should be suspected, and the trunks of some of the trees should be banded with a sticky tree banding material, and, if the condition of the trees is due to injury by the larvae of the pest, adult beetles will be found below the band. The adult weevil is about seven-eighths of an inch in length, grey-buff in color, and has the head prolonged into a typical snout. Although the adults feed upon the foliage and buds of the trees, the damage they cause is of minor importance.

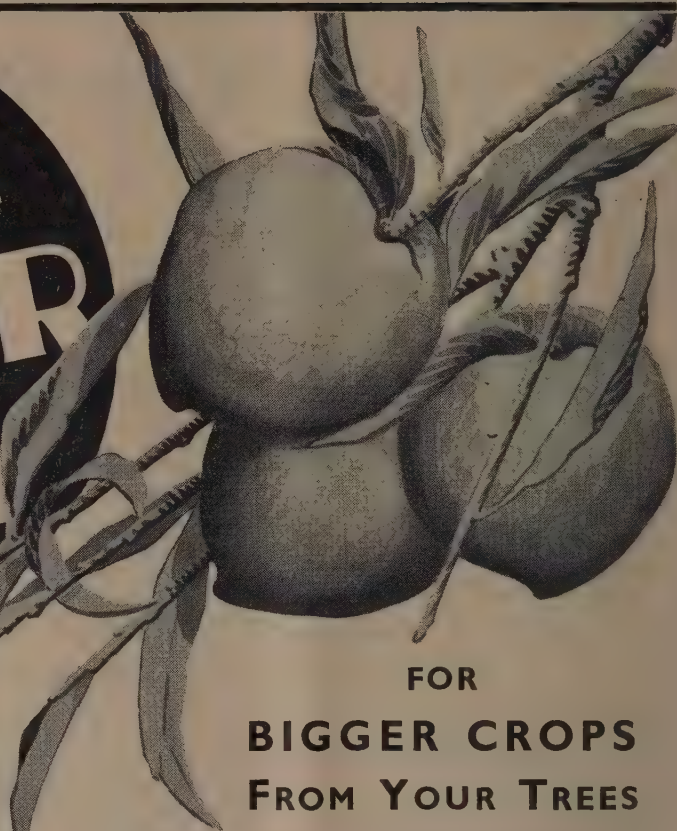
An examination of the roots of sickly trees will indicate whether the weevil larvae have been at work.

Tree Banding.

Trees known to be infested, and even those in the same orchard not showing evidence of infestation, should be banded in order to prevent any adults climbing the trunks to feed and deposit their eggs on the foliage. The banding material should be applied with a flat stick, in order to form a ring around the



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Control the ravages of Peach Aphid, Red Spiders Scale and Caterpillars in the egg stage and count on bigger crops, better fruit and more profits. I.C.I. Winter Wash can be relied upon to protect your trees from hungry insects—recent tests in Victoria have proved it 100% effective. I.C.I. Winter Wash is a dormant period, tar-distillate spray, converted into a creamy emulsion that emulsifies in the hardest water.

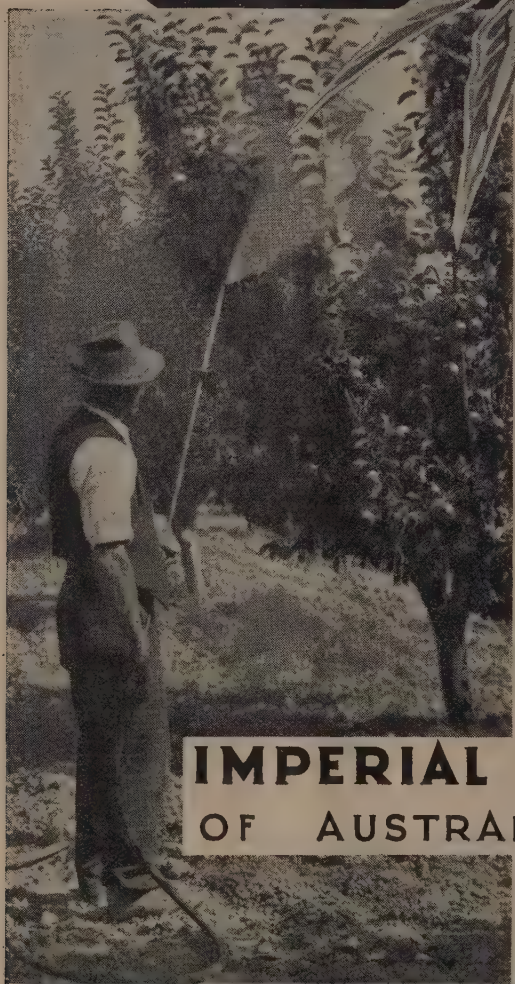
I.C.I. Winter Wash is not an added expense—it saves its cost many times over in more and better fruit. Order now, from your local dealer.

Report of Ardmont test published in Journal of Agriculture, Victoria, Vol. 31, Part 6, June, 1933.

Write for Illustrated Folder.

AGENTS:

RAMSAY & TREGANOWAN, 469 Latrobe St., Melbourne.
MACDERMOTT & SHEEDY, City Fruit Markets, Sydney.
A.C.F. & SHIRLEYS FERTILIZERS LTD., Brisbane, Queensland.
Gardners' Supply Stores Co-operative Society Pty. Ltd., New Market, Grenfell, Adelaide.
C. E. CAMPBELL, Endean's Bldgs., Queen St., Auckland, N.Z.



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trunk about three inches wide and about one-eighth of an inch thick.

The banding material should be applied during the latter half of June, and the bands will remain effective until all the beetles have emerged, provided the surface is freshened periodically by rubbing with a flat stick.

The weevils which congregate on the trunks below the bands should be collected and destroyed at frequent intervals (at least once each week). The bands should be placed as high as possible on the trees, so that the weevils can be more readily seen, and also to avoid, as far as possible, dust and leaves from accumulating on the bands.

Prevent Bark Injury.

Where the trunks of the trees are exposed to direct sunlight it is advisable, in order to prevent possible injury to the bark, first to place around the trunks a band of grease-proof paper on which to spread the banding material.

It is essential to prune the lower branches of the trees, so that they are at least 6 inches from the ground, and to destroy weeds and grass, which, if allowed to grow up until they touch the branches, would enable the beetles to reach the foliage without crawling up the trunks.

PURE FRUIT DRINKS.

New Company Starting.

A further practical effort is to be made to remove from the market a great volume of second grade fruit, which, though not up to the quality that should rightly appear for dessert consumption, is claimed to be quite suitable for by-products, such as fruit drinks.

The new company is registered as "Cave's Pure Fruit Drinks Pty. Ltd.," and is sponsored by Mr. Fred Cave, of the Victoria Markets. A factory has been secured at Rosslyn-street, West Melbourne, and is being fitted with up-to-date processing machinery. A special extractor and filter is on the way from America, and will be installed immediately upon arrival. It is said to be the latest machine, from a country in which fruit drinks are now so popular.

The factory will commence operations about the middle of June, and all varieties of fruit will be treated, commencing with Orange, Lemon, Pineapple, Passion-fruit and Tomatoes.

Depression?

A reader writes: I was delighted, the other day, to see in a fruit shop in one of the suburbs the following:—

Eat plenty of fruit and be plucky,
And laugh at depression with me;
In 99 years—if we're lucky,
Hard times won't be here—
Nor will we.

CANNED FRUITS

Canned Fruit Exports

AT A MEETING of the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee on May 3, it was stated that the Australian canned fruit pack for 1935 would probably total 1,800,000 cases. Sales to Britain to date aggregated 890,000 cases. The pack was larger than anticipated, and the total would probably reach 1,000,000 cases. To markets other than Britain 100,000 cases had been sold. An advance payment of 3d. per dozen 30-oz. tins was being made. The committee decided to defer its decision on the methods of assistance for Australian canned fruits exports until the sales had been completed.

A request that factory Lemons be brought under the minimum price-fixing arrangements, as with Plums, Apricots, Pears, Quinces and berry fruits, was considered, it being decided to confer with the Victorian Central Citrus Association on the matter.

The British Canning Industry

Not Opposed to Australia.

ALTHOUGH THE OUTPUT of canned fruit and vegetables in Great Britain probably did not exceed three or four million cans in 1925, there was a rapid increase in production from that year until 1931. By 1931 the annual production had reached about 100-120 million cans, at which point it has since remained constant. Although the exact figures are not known the output is probably divided into roughly forty million cans of fruit and at least seventy to eighty million cans of fresh and reprocessed vegetables.

Reports to hand state that most of the fruit canned in England consists of the softer fruits, such as berries of all sorts and Plums, therefore Peaches, Apricots and other large fruits exported from Australia, do not necessarily compete very much with the English canneries. Even so, British canners last year asked the Import Duties Advisory Board to recommend an increase of duty upon foreign canned fruits, which created an outcry from grocers who stated that the impost asked would affect retail prices to the extent of 4d. per tin, which would reflect to the disadvantage of both the consumer and the foreign shippers. So far, no change has been gazetted.

Normally, Britain requires about 150,000 tons of imported canned fruit of an approximate value of £5,000,000. Pineapples comprise a quarter of this volume, and 93 per cent. of such come from Empire countries, the principal supplier being the Malay States. Whilst U.S.A. supplies the bulk of other canned fruits (80 per cent.), imports from Empire countries increased last year, for which Australia was mainly responsible.

English canned fruit companies are urging consumers to buy locally-canned fruits, and a recent exhibition of such fruits was staged at the Charing Cross Underground Railway Station, which was most effectively displayed. The object of the exhibition was stated to be not so much to discourage Empire goods as to impress upon the public that certain English-grown fruits can be obtained in canned form. Recipes for simply-prepared meals were freely distributed at the exhibition, and cans with "wind-dows in them" were used so that passers-by could see the contents.

Australian canners are not out to attack the English canneries, but should use every effort to get more of the very consistent trade now held by Californian canneries, which requires packing and displaying equally well, as good quality fruit, as do our American friends.

Leeton.—A record season has been concluded, a total of 10,000,000 cans of fruit and jams having been processed. A total of 7,000 tons of fruits, Tomatoes, etc., was handled. The manager, Mr. J. Brady, speaks appreciatively of the splendid work of the staff in working long hours to handle the crop. Appreciation was expressed of the services



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SYDNEY, BRISBANE, ADELAIDE, PERTH.



of Sister Cochrane, of the Welfare Department, in keeping the workers physically fit.

Another record was the receipt of over 100 tons of fruit per day for thirty-one consecutive days.

Canning Development in Canada

Vegetables Increasing.

THE OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT in the canning industry of Canada is its growth in the Province of Quebec where large quantities of canned Beans, Corn, Peas and Tomatoes are now being packed, according to a report by H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in Canada and Newfoundland for 1933-34. In 1932, there were 900 home canners operating under Quebec licence, in addition to the commercial canners. At present the requirements of Quebec are being satisfied by local packers to the detriment of the canners in Ontario, particularly those in the Prince Edward County district, who have depended on the Montreal market for many years.

In 1930, there was a large overpack in Canada and this has resulted in the curtailment of packs in subsequent years. For instance, in 1930 there were over 3,000,000 cases of Tomatoes packed against just over 1,500,000 cases in 1933. Of Corn in 1930, the pack was 1,000,000 cases; in 1933, 432,000. In 1930 there were 2,500,000 cases of Peas; in 1933, 819,000 cases.

Fruits are canned largely in Ontario and to a limited extent in British Columbia. Peaches and Bartlett Pears are grown in commercial quantities only in the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario and in the Okanagan district in British Columbia in a limited way. Trees are being planted each year and for some time to come there appear to be more than sufficient for domestic requirements.

Last year, over 50 canning factories in Ontario did not operate and apparently the potential capacity of these would be more than sufficient to supply the normal requirements of Canada for a year. The United States offers a large market, but the prohibitive tariff prevents imports.

The latest figures show that 258 establishments were engaged in canning fruits and vegetables in various forms in 1932, the value of their production being £6,000,000. The extensive fish canning industry of Canada has enjoyed a fairly good year.

STEVEDORES APPRECIATED.

In a report from the Department of Agriculture regarding the 1935 Apple and Pear export season from Victoria, Mr. J. M. Ward (Supt. of Horticulture) stated that he desired to congratulate the stevedoring companies, and especially the stevedores, on the very careful manner in which they have handled the fruit on the wharves and in the ships' holds; reports so far received from England state that very little of the fruit is arriving in a bruised condition, whereas in past years there has been many complaints about bruised fruit upon arrival at the port of destination.

High Cost of Sugar

Australia Bled to the Tune of £100,000,000.

Huge Profits of Industry.

ADDRESSING the public works committee of the Coburg City Council on the sugar embargo recently, Mr. J. M. Atkinson, of the Henry George League, said that during the last ten years the sugar interests of Queensland had received £70,000,000 more than the value of the sugar. This was equal to one-sixteenth of Australia's national debt. The Australian public each week made a present to Queensland sugar interests of £130,000, or £19,000 a day, or £800 an hour.

The new sugar agreement had been made in great haste by the Prime Minister. If it were ratified by the Federal Parliament the total gift made by the Australian people to the sugar interests of Queensland would be £100,000,000. The price of sugar in Australia was £33/4/- a ton, or four times the amount charged to foreigners.

The dividend just paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company was equal to about 37 per cent. on the original paid-up capital of £2,425,000. In conclusion, Mr. Atkinson requested the council to urge its Federal representative to oppose the renewal of the sugar agreement.

3-H.P.

McCORMICK-DEERING

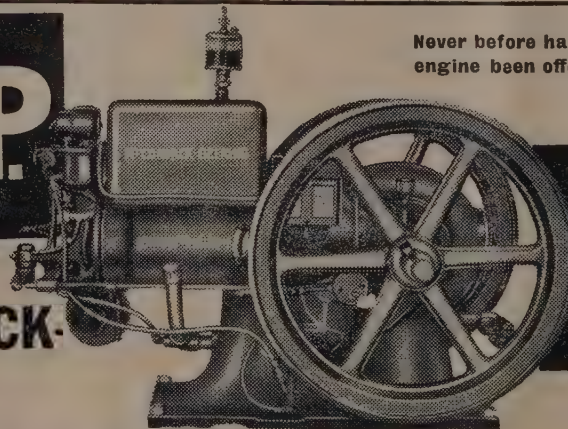
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High Quality Fruit Essential.

Hints from South Australia.

Mr. J. B. Randell, a well-known fruit grower at Gumeracha, Sth. Aust., and growers' delegate to the Australian Apple and Pear Export Council, writes as follows:—Let me commend your idea of having a discussion in the "Fruit World" as to the methods most likely to bring about a betterment of the conditions obtaining in the fruit industry. If this opportunity is made use of, as I trust it will be, by those engaged in the various phases of the industry, it should be productive of much good, and help toward a solution of some of the very difficult problems which to-day confront those who produce and distribute fruit and fruit products.

As a producer asked for an expression of opinion on these matters, it may be apposite for me to, figuratively speaking, start at my own door, and to say that one of the first things necessary is for fruitgrowers in general to raise their standards to a higher level. There is a pretty unanimous opinion that we have so far as most varieties of fruit are concerned, reached the stage of over-production. In other words, more fruit is being grown than the absorptive power of the fruit-consuming public is able to utilise.

That this is so is, at least in part, the fault of the producers themselves, and, in the opinion of the writer, growers must realise that a very large amount of the products which they turn out upon the markets of the world are definitely tending to diminish rather than to increase the consumption of fruit.

There is no comestible more luscious and wholesome, nor one which appeals to the human appetite more than good, well-developed, ripe fruit, yet who that reads these lines has not on occasion purchased fruit of various kinds which, after tasting, has been thrown away with a feeling of disgust.

Why?

Because the fruitgrower who sent that same fruit out on to the market either didn't know his job, or his avarice or some other trend of mind prevented him from doing as she should.

GOOD GOODS will invariably find their own market. The fruit markets, whether of Australia or overseas, are not over-supplied with first-class fruit, nor are they likely to be in the near future.

I am quite aware of the very considerable difficulties which confront the grower in his endeavour to produce only that which is first class. I am

aware that after everything has been done that human knowledge can devise or human industry can perform, often factors altogether outside human control will operate to defeat our best directed efforts; I am, however, equally certain that much of the poor, partially developed, unattractive and insipid fruit which finds its way on to our markets, does so because of the carelessness of the grower who produced it.

If the industry is to be placed on a better footing its first boost up must come from the men who to-day are growing the goods.

Here are the essentials for all fruit produced for dessert purposes:—It must be grown on trees or plants which have had full supplies of available elements of plant nutrition, and which have been so treated that the influences of light and air have had free play, while pests and diseases have been kept under control and the fruit itself allowed to remain upon the parent plant sufficiently long to ensure that stage of development or ripeness which alone provides that rich juiciness and beauty, not to mention fragrance, which are the prime recommendations of fruit of whatever kind.

This is the goal to which we, as growers, must spare no effort to attain; many other things call for attention, and will doubtless be fully discussed. More anon.

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An Application of Sulphate of Ammonia this Coming Spring

For Quality Fruit—

Apply Sulphate of Ammonia in balance with Super and Potash.

Ask for the 2:2:1 or 4:4:1

H3/35

(Continued from page 318)

Reworking Cherry Trees

NOW A FEW REMARKS on "working over for cross pollination." As a safeguard against irregularities in the time and amount of blossoming of the varieties concerned, it is always wise to include

more than one variety

when introducing pollinisers. An object, in selecting the pollinisers should be to choose those which completely overlap the period of the main variety.

For this purpose one variety is often inadequate, and it is necessary to select one variety which commences just before the main variety commences and another which commences before the main variety is finished. Thus the blossoming of Early Lyons can

be completely overlapped

by the variety of Burgdorff or Early Rivers (early part) and Eagle (late part).

One of the chief difficulties of satisfactorily pollinating St. Margaret is that while mid-season varieties overlap the early part, no cross-fertile variety has so far been found to effect pollination on the late blooming trees.

Pollination between varieties

is effected by insects, chiefly honey-bees, hence it is necessary to provide hives of bees where these are lacking. One hive per acre is necessary to ensure a good transference of pollen.

In Cherries grafting is considered preferable to budding, as with budding a number of buds often fail to take, and drop out or fail to grow satisfactorily.

Working in of pollinisers can be done with the greatest advantage while the trees are young. One of the leaders in each tree should be grafted with a scion of the desired polliniser, using the whip and tongue graft in July or August.

Where a graft fails to take, the lateral arising from the headed leader may be budded the following year.

In using the

whip and tongue graft

in Cherries a good deal of success was obtained by Mr. Thornell, fruit inspector at Young, by the use of an untipped scion about 4 inches to 6 inches in length.

When introducing pollinisers into a solid block of a variety their distribution requires some attention to be most effective. The minimum number which should be introduced is one tree worked to a polliniser in nine of the main variety. This may be effected by working over every third tree in every third row. Since it is desirable to have more than one variety to effect cross-pollination, two pollinisers may be used on this tree, or some other trees may be grafted over.

DRIED FRUITS — NEWS AND NOTES

Victorian Dried Fruits Board

REVIEW OF 1934 ANNUAL REPORT.

THE REPORT of the Board covering the dried fruits industry during 1934, is now to hand, and gives much information that will be of interest to growers. In spite of severe frost and hail visitations in some districts in Victoria, almost parallel with the damage sustained in 1927, and which may still affect the 1936 crop in some areas, and although production in Victoria was less than in 1933, 1930 and 1929, it can still be quoted as a good year for dried fruits.

The quantity of dried vine fruits harvested in the whole of Australia in 1934 was 69,566 tons, of which Victoria supplied 40,788 tons composed of Currants 7,309 tons, Sultanas 29,656 tons, Lexias 3,823 tons, but in addition, fruits produced in N.S.W., but processed and packed in Victoria, represented 615, 2,450 and 279 tons respectively.

Area and Number of Growers.

The area in Australia under cultivation in vine fruits is approximately 53,300 acres, of which Victoria contributes 30,340 acres, whilst of the 5,526 growers in Australia, Victoria supplies 2,376, South Australia 2,200, N.S.W. 550 and W.A. 400. Mildura, of course, is the largest producing district in Victoria.

Distribution.

As the normal Commonwealth consumption of dried vine fruits is approximately 13,500 tons, the bulk of the Australian pack is required to be sold overseas. The exports (up to 31/12/34) totalled 54,504 tons, representing 78.1 per cent. of the total Australian pack. The following gives the distribution of the Victorian quota harvested in the 1934 season:—

	Currants.	Sultanas.	Lexias.	Total.
Sold in Australia (tons)	1,414	4,423	1,319	7,156
Exported Overseas	5,818	24,573	2,333	32,724
Stocks on hand	77	660	171	908
	7,309	29,656	3,823	40,788

Whilst the bulk of overseas exports are absorbed in the United Kingdom, it is gratifying to note that a commendable trade is also done with other countries, the destination of Victorian exports are reported, covering all grades, as: United Kingdom 19,956 tons, Canada 9,161 tons, New Zealand 2,250 tons, East-

ern Ports 426, and miscellaneous 931 tons. Total 32,724 tons of the total exports of 54,504 tons exported from Australia.

Export Quotas.

The percentage quotas for Commonwealth consumption, as determined by all States for the 1934 season, were:—Currants 20 per cent., Sultanas 17½ per cent., and Lexias 42 per cent. The report adds that owing to an unexpected increase in Victorian Sultanas due to the saving of large quantities through improved methods of cleansing and dehydrating of the fruit, the quota for Sultanas would have been lowered had it been possible to forecast the increase.

During 1934 Australia contributed 43.07 per cent. of all dried vine fruits imported into the United Kingdom, of which 127,000 tons were required from all sources. Under the Ottawa Agreement, Empire grown Currants and Raisins are admitted free of duty, whilst foreign Sultanas and Raisins pay £10/10/-, and Currants £2 per ton duty. The latest reports from London state that all Australian dried vine fruits had been disposed of and returned average prices of Currants £36/1/6, Lexias £33/7/7, and Sultanas £37/1/9 per ton.

Canada, which imported last year 13,860 tons of Currants and Raisins, of which Australia supplied 7,971 extends a preference over foreign products amounting to £18/13/4 per ton, and the recent Trade Agreement with New Zealand opens up an increasingly valuable trade with the Dominion.

Dried Fruits.

With the coming into force, in May, 1934, of the dried tree fruits regulations by which all fruit must be processed and

packed in registered packing houses (except for special exemptions where packers are operating at a considerable distance from registered packing houses) it is claimed that not only do consumers get a higher quality of fruit, but growers receive a corresponding advantage in price returns. This regulation is to

be extended to other varieties of dried fruits also (Pears, Peaches, Nectarines and Apricots).

Research.

Scientific investigation in connection with the processing and packing of dried fruits has been undertaken, namely: The darkening of Sultanas in storage and during dipping and drying, infestation of insect pests, fruit sticking or compacting together, mould in Currants and green tinge. A method of determining moisture content was also studied. It has been arranged to manufacture moisture machines in Melbourne similar to those used in California.

Joint Publicity Scheme.

The A.D.F.A. co-operated with the State Board in publicity efforts during the year, and increased sales are credited to this procedure. This took the form of newspaper advertising, window displays, radio publicity, travelling vans and lectures, picture films, etc. Demonstrations of cookery and exhibitions in various places were arranged.

The report concludes with the statement that in the ten years of the Board's existence the industry has been benefited by the operations of the Board and by the co-operation extended to it by all sections of the industry, resulting in considerable progress in the processing, packing and marketing of dried fruits.

DRIED FRUITS FREIGHT

Deputation Strongly Urges Reduction of Freight on Dried Fruits for Export.

A STRONG CASE for the reduction of freight on dried fruit for export was made before the Victorian Minister of Transport (Mr. Bus-sau) recently.

Mr. Allnutt, M.L.A., said that in 1925 dried fruit for export was carried at the A.P. rate 18/7 a ton: in 1932 a new "economy" ministry charged the A.A. rate of 34/10 a ton.

The general manager of the Mildura Co-operative Fruit Co. (Mr. D. C. Winterbottom) said that the price ruling in London now was £35 a ton, compared with £90 a ton in 1923. Production of dried fruits had been nearly doubled between 1924 and 1933. Canned fruits for export were carried at the A.P. rate: 80 per cent. of the dried fruit was exported.

Favorable consideration was promised by the Minister,

DRIED FRUITS LEGISLATION ATTACKED.

Frederick Alexander James, dried fruit merchant, of Adelaide, is challenging the validity of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Act, 1928-1935, on the ground that the Act and regulations are a contravention of Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which provides for absolute freedom of interstate trade. The argument is being heard before the High Court, consisting of Mr. Justice Rich, Mr. Justice Starke, Mr. Justice Dixon, Mr. Justice Evatt, and Mr. Justice McTiernan.

Plaintiff claims injunctions restraining Dried Fruits Boards from interfering with or preventing him from despatching his dried fruits from South Australia to the other States and claiming £120/12/1 damages for wrongful seizure of his dried fruits. Plaintiff, who has no licence, contends he should not be required to take out a licence.

Mr. Latham, K.C., and Mr. Herring, instructed by the Commonwealth Solicitor, appeared for the Commonwealth. Mr. Latham claimed the action was frivolous and vexatious because substantially the same action had been decided by the court against the plaintiff in 1928.

Mr. Ward, on behalf of plaintiff, submitted that plaintiff relied on an entirely new set of facts. The Act had been amended since 1928. Two acts of

unlawful conversion and a suit for damages were now included. Should the decision be adverse, the case would go to the Privy Council. The Court reserved its decision.

DRIED FRUITS BOARDS.

Conference at Renmark.

Mr. J. M. Balfour (Victoria) presided over a conference held at Renmark of representatives of the Dried Fruits Boards of Victoria, N.S.W., and South Australia early in May. The matters dealt with included Prunes in syrup, in relation to the export quota (legal opinion being sought), uniform levy for 1936 and recommendations for control legislation of dehydrators.

NEW DRIED FRUITS QUOTAS.

Regulations Amended.

Owing to last season's crops varying from the estimates upon which export quotas were fixed, an amendment of the regulations has become necessary. Notification from Canberra last week stated that the proportions of the crop of dried fruits that must now be exported are as follows:—

Currants, 86 per cent.; Sultanas, 90 per cent.; Lexias, 60 per cent.; Prunes, 66-2/3 per cent.; Peaches, 70 per cent.; Pears, 55 per cent. The new quota for Apricots and Nectarines has been fixed as between November 1 last and October 31 of this year. Quotas for these fruits are:—Apricots, 52½ per cent.; Nectarines, 50 per cent.

DRIED FRUITS IN ENGLISH SHOPS.

Quality and Price Main Factors.

There is no better judge of dried fruits and dried fruits values than the London buyer, and sentiment, with them, does not enter into their calculations, was the impression gathered by Mr. Leo J. Cleary, resident director of the Aurora Packing Company, on his recent trip abroad, as reported in a recent issue of "Sunraysia Daily."

They, like ourselves, are in business to make as much money in as short a time as possible, and, when dealing with dried fruits, Empire propaganda and Empire sentiment play a very meagre part. They buy what represents best value, and at cheapest prices, irrespective as to whether or not the fruit is the product of a corner of the British Empire or of some foreign country. Mr. Cleary stated that he did not intend to infer that there was a luke-warm feeling in our U.K. relations. He considered



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CLINGSTONE PEACHES:

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Orders faithfully filled and promptly despatched any distance. Expert packing.

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that a goodly percentage of the housewife consumers in Great Britain would favor the purchase of Australian fruit, but their education regarding dried fruits affairs was so sadly lacking that, in many cases, the grocer would sell what he wished to sell, and not what the purchaser wished to purchase.

Mr. Cleary spoke in the highest terms of the manner in which Australian industry interests are being protected by the Board of Control in London. He expressed the opinion that there is still room for improvement in general marketing conditions, and that it would be a big advantage to our industry in Australia if the London panel showed the necessary interest to look into anomalies which are so apparent to the stranger shortly following his arrival. The London dealers are approachable, through their Association, and we, as an industry in Australia, have the opportunity of making greater use of our panel representatives, who should make greater endeavors towards reduction of various charges in the U.K. without these charges and the anomalies connected therewith having to be brought under their notice.

The prospects of 1935 are excellent, said the speaker, but markets must be approached cautiously, because there is always a possibility that the industry may have to accept a lower price rate next year. It is impossible to forecast the forward position of the London market from even week to week. He strongly supported the maintenance of the tight rein which has guided the Australian industry successfully through a distressing period.

AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS SALES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The Chairman of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Export Control Board (Mr. W. C. F. Thomas) advises that the Board is in receipt of advice from its London agency that 673 tons of Australian dried fruits were sold in Great Britain during the week ended May 23.

Three hundred tons of new season's Sultanias averaged £45/11/9 and 233 tons of Currants averaged £36/1/1 per ton.

The demand is steady for new season's fruit, and in addition, 140 tons of the small balance of the 1934 crop of Sultanias was sold at £33/3/- per ton.

Shipments to Great Britain to date cover 11,345 tons of Sultanias, 8,916 tons Currants and 42 tons Lexias.

NITROGEN AND PLANT LIFE.

Four-fifths of the atmosphere consists of free nitrogen, which, however, cannot be absorbed direct by ordinary higher plants. With the exception of certain types of plants, such as Legumes, all our cultivated crops obtain their nitrogen exclusively from the soil.

Nitrogen occurs in the soil as nitrates, nitrites, ammonium compounds, and complex organic substances. It also occurs in free form, but as such it is again not available to higher plants. The nitrates present in the soil constitute the main source of nitrogen for plant nutrition, although it is now known that some plants can absorb at

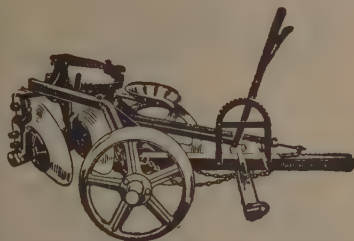
least portion of their nitrogen requirements in the form of nitrites or ammonium compounds. Nitrates are characterised by their ready solubility, and rapidly pass into the soil solution, where they are immediately available for absorption by plant roots.

The organic nitrogenous compounds, and the bulk of the ammonium compounds, have to undergo bacterial decomposition in the soil, and the nitrogen which they contain has to be converted into the form of a soluble nitrate before it becomes available for plant nutrition.

Nitrogen is one of the most important plant foods, and plays a very vital part in the nutrition of all plant life.

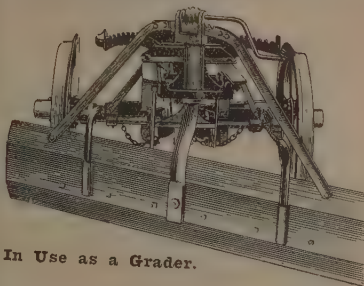
Gibbins' Ploughs

for the Orchardist!



Gibbins Reversible Two-Disc Plough.

The patent Gibbins Reversible Plough, as illustrated, embodies special features which enable this plough to be worked right up to the butts of the trees. With the Gibbins, you can throw on to the trees or away from the trees. You can also convert the Gibbins Reversible Plough into a Spring Tyne Cultivator, Disc Cultivator and Grader.



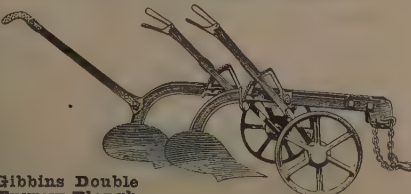
In Use as a Grader.

Here is the new Gibbins Grader fitted to the frame of the Gibbins Reversible Plough. It is proving very popular with orchardists. This patent Grader is 5 feet in length with a blade 10 inches deep. It can be regulated to depth, and can be tilted up and down to suit requirements, with a variation of from one to six inches. The cutting blade is simply and quickly adjustable to give the desired angle of cut.



Gibbins Single Furrow Plough.

This is the ideal plough for the orchardist. The handles are pivoted, and may be moved to either side very quickly. It is now recognised as the premier plough for ploughing "on" or "off" right up to the tree butts. It is a strongly built plough, and is very light in draught.



Gibbins Double Furrow Plough.

This is the Gibbins Two-Furrow Orchard and Vineyard Plough. It is extra strong and durable, and is suitable for two light horses. It is fitted with adjustable head rack, and the draught can be moved sideways to any point required, thereby enabling the horses to work well out from the branches of the trees when either ploughing on or off.

CASH OR TERMS.—Illustrated Catalogue With Pleasure.

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PATENT ATTORNEY

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MELBOURNE.

Plant growth is very largely regulated by the amount of available nitrogen in the soil, and when this is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the plant, the effects produced are more striking than those resulting from a lack of any other single nutrient material.

Nitrogen starvation is characterised by stunted growth and a scanty development of foliage, which is typically yellowish or reddish in color. An abundant supply of readily available nitrogen, on the other hand, greatly increases the growth rate and promotes a vigorous growth of strong stems and rich dark green foliage. An abundance of healthy foliage is of the utmost importance for the well being of the plant, since it is in the leaves that the raw nutrient substances are converted into plant food materials by the action of sunlight on the chlorophyll or green coloring matter.

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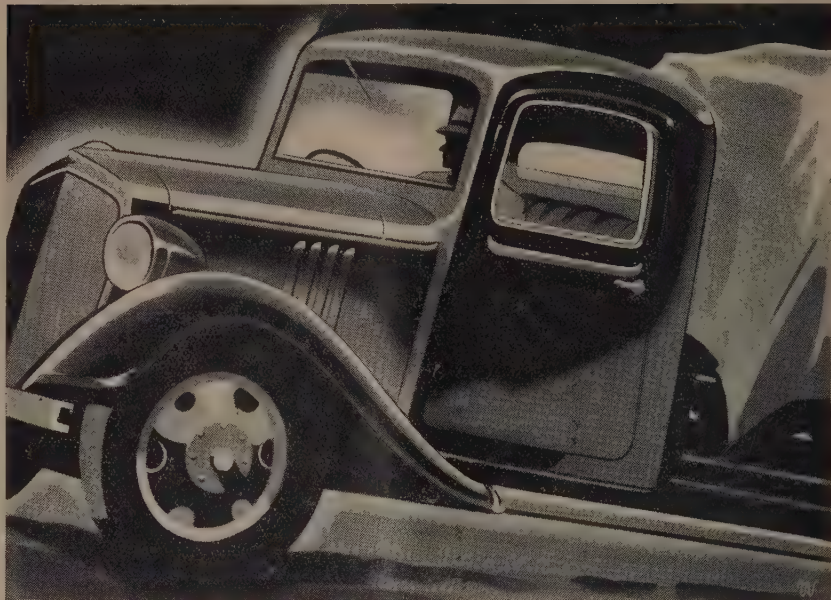
300 Stores Stock it.

A friend of ours recently returned from a trip to Great Britain. During his stay there he investigated the marketing of Australian products and was pleased with the advertising being done to popularise Australian products.

He left with us a four-page folder obtained in Belfast, which announced over 300 grocery and provision shops in the city and suburbs in which Australian canned fruits, dried fruits, eggs and butter can be procured, giving the name and address of the various stores and the goods stocked.

In addition, the folder bears pictures of fruit picking and packing, and is captioned "Enterprising shops in Belfast selling Australian Sunshine Products." Such slogans as "Buy Home Products first—give your next preference to Australian and other Empire Products," and "Buy from your own folk in Australia."

The fact that Australian Sultanias, canned fruits and butter are available throughout the year, is stressed with fresh Apples from April to September and eggs from September to February, and must help in repeat orders at the stores and the continuity of supplies being requested by the storekeepers.



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Motor Cars and Trucks

Useful Hints

Motor Cars and Trucks

Winter Care of Cars.

SOME SUGGESTIONS for the care of your passenger car are due now that the cold and rains of winter may be continued.

After having given the car a good cleaning, apply a coating of durable car wax, as this not only will protect the finish, but will simplify future cleaning.

Touch up all rust spots before they grow larger. Rub each rust spot down to the bright metal, then spot with lacquer undercoat, and lacquer, using a very small brush or match head.

Look at the top. The danger line is round the mouldings. If any cracks are discerned seal them with stop sealer, which is obtainable from accessory shops in tubes, having special nozzles so that it is easy to apply the sealer in a thin ribbon.

Finish the entire top with a proper auto top finish, painted on thinly. Too thick coatings will crack and cause trouble.

With open cars, carefully clean the hoods with soap and water. Repair all tears by stitching or by stuck-on patches. Paint hood with proper hood dressing.

Give khaki hoods and khaki sports tops a coat of clear waterproof dressing.

Whilst this advice sounds like car beauty only, behind it is common sense, and the car will last longer and look better if such attention is given. In addition, of course, winter care includes frequent greasing and checking up of the mechanical sections.

IMPROVING DRIVING POSITION.

Many users of old cars endure unnecessary driving fatigue because they do not trouble to keep the upholstery in good order and attend to a few other minor details which have a big influence on the question of driving comfort. Seats which have sagged through long service should be repacked with horse-hair or kapok, or suitably shaped seat and back cushions can be made at home. The right arrangement is that the steering wheel should be well raked, so that the driver's arms are not unduly extended when grasping it, the leg reach to the pedal controls should be neither cramped nor too long, and the driver's body should be well supported by the upholstery, so that he is in an almost upright position, his spine is cushioned and his leg muscles also are not strained. It is easy enough to accomplish all this when the driving seat is adjustable for reach and tilt, but with old cars more ingenuity is needed, and sometimes it will be helpful if the front sea cushion is given a slight backward tilt by nailing a thin strip of wood along the underside at front.

DANGER OF WET BATTERY.

This potential danger is greater immediately the car has been used, and particularly, if the battery has been kept fully charged or when the car has been run over long distances. After the battery has been fully charged most of the electrical energy is dissipated in the form of hydrogen, and great care should be taken not to allow a naked light or a spark to be in the vicinity of the battery.

There is also a very great danger to persons involved in motor accidents if there should be any escape of acid from the battery, several persons having thereby lost their sight.

With the event of acid from the battery coming into contact with any part of a person's body the best thing to do, until medical assistance can be obtained, is to wash the part affected with the purest water possible. In the absence of other water take some water from the radiator and use it unsparingly; the more the better, and if baking soda is available mix a little with the water.

SKIDS.

Before very long the slippery roads of winter will be providing ideal skidding grounds for the unwary. And, as in the past, a big percentage of these skids will happen at times and places where lives will be endangered. In the interests of his own and the public safety every motorist should know how to handle his car if a skid occurs.

The most common skid of all is the rear wheel skid. The expert and only certain way of correcting such a skid is to steer in the same direction as the slide of the car—without touching the brakes. Suppose, for instance, that the rear wheels suddenly slip away toward the right kerb. Instantly the front wheels should be swung to the right. The natural tendency is to slap on the brakes, but this will only aggravate the skid — steering into the skid, without braking, is the surest way of getting car back under control.

Front wheel skids are another matter. In such a case, the safest thing to do is to forget the wheel brakes and use the transmission brake as quickly and as hard as possible. The idea being to slow down the speed of the car without locking the front wheels. Whilst the car is gradually slowing down, the steering wheel should be centralised and moved quickly but softly from side to side until the car comes under control again.

Of course, the best correction of skids is to stop them before they begin. For, while expert drivers can often come safely through the varieties of forward skids, a side or broadside skid is a terrifying experience. Apropos of this, many drivers forget that driving on worn-smooth tyres or on tyres that are not designed to prevent both kinds of

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Opposite
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Poultry Notes.

Roup.

THIS IS THE SEASON of the year when birds may suffer from roup.

The first symptoms seen will be a sticky discharge from the eyes and nostrils, difficult breathing, feverishness and depression. As the disease progresses, the discharge thickens, becomes offensive, and collects in cheesy masses, blocking up the eyes and nostrils, making the breathing difficult, and sometimes the patients die of suffocation. In severe cases the bird should be killed and burned, but in mild cases treat as for catarrh or cold. A badly-affected bird, if cured, should not be bred from, as the progeny would be subject to colds.

No set rule for treatment can be laid down, but the first precaution is to isolate the sick bird in warm quarters, and dose the balance with Epsom salts, 1 oz. to 12 birds in warm wet mash. To treat a bird with roup, hold its head over steam from a kettle of water in which you have put a few drops of beech creosote, carbolic or acetic acid, or other handy disinfectant inhaler. Clean the nostrils and mouth with a weak solution of Jaye's fluid. Get rid of discharge by frequent attention and feed warm milk and bread sops with a little pepper or mustard added; warmth and pure air are essential.

WASHING OF EGGS.

The attention of readers is directed to the following statement, issued by the Department of Commerce, Melbourne, under date of March 29, 1935:—

"With a view to the export of only uniformly high quality eggs from Australia, the Department of Commerce, after careful investigation, came to the conclusion that the practice of cleaning eggs by means of machines or other methods at packing establishments was detrimental to the quality of such eggs, and therefore decided to prohibit the practice in future.

MOTOR CARS AND TRUCKS.

(Continued from page 329.)

skids is to invite trouble. Tyres should be non-skid in the true meaning of the word—and now is the ideal time to put such tyres on your wheels, for their treads will still be deep-cut and sure-gripping when winter is here.

Definitely, if winter skids are to be prevented, the soundest advice which can be given any motorist is to start his preventing with his tyres. For what use are sound brakes and skilful driving if tyres can't hold the road?

Some exporters are now advising producers that cleaning machines may be procured which are suitable for this purpose. The Department of Commerce desires to point out that cleaning machines are included in the above prohibition and producers, in their own interests, are advised not to install such machines.

"It is also pointed out that washed eggs are not eligible for export under the Commerce Regulations, and poultry

farmers are therefore advised to refrain from using any of the methods above mentioned, and are urged to take such precautions on the farm as will reduce the necessity for any form of cleaning to a minimum.

"If on occasions it is found that eggs on the farm have become slightly soiled, it is recommended that such soiling be removed promptly by wiping with a clean, damp cloth. — ("Australasian Poultry World.")

Bees and Honey.

Wintering.

To Make Colonies Comfortable.

The active working season for bees, except in the real warm climates where a winter flow may occur has now closed, and the apiarist will be busy making final preparation for wintering his colonies. The essential points in wintering are:—(1) Comfortable conditions in the hive, (2) ample supplies of good quality stores, (3) a young queen with a good force of vigorous young worker bees.

A colony of bees will not be comfortable in a hive much too large for the cluster they form, therefore in the final preparation, surplus supers—those above the requirements of the winter cluster and accommodation of the food supply—should be removed. Many bee-keepers, where conditions are not unusually cold, winter their stocks in hives three full depth stories high, the same as used for a honey flow in summer.

It is considered, however, that the average colony would be more comfortable during winter, under New South Wales climatic conditions generally, in a hive about equal in size to two stories, full depth, the lower story (brood chamber) having its supply of honey, and the full depth super (or two shallows or Boltons as the case may be) being well stocked with food.

Reduce Size of Entrance.

To allow of further comfort in the hive the entrance should be reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in depth, for less ventilation is necessary during winter, and with this sized entrance mice are excluded. With a deeper entrance these rodents may creep in when the bees are in a semi-hibernating condition and damage some portions of the unprotected brood combs.

The hive should be sound and waterproof and its walls of sufficient thickness, in cold districts particularly, to allow of the bees conserving to the best advantage the heat generated by their cluster. It takes energy to produce heat.

The Food Supply.

Natural stores gathered during a reasonably dry autumn and most of it sealed

in the combs before winter, would be classed as good quality stores. Bees winter best on darker honey, and the autumn flora usually provides the right class. Good quality stores may be gained too, from feeding sugar syrup. It is not anticipated, however, that it will be necessary this season to feed winter stores, the late honey flows having provided an ample natural supply generally.

A Good Force of Bees.

Cull out old and unsatisfactory queens, and arrange good conditions in the brood chamber to secure the necessary force of young, vigorous bees for the winter. These young bees, under good conditions, should live through to the spring with practically undiminished vitality. They will not need to economise in the use of food, they will be comfortable and will not expend unnecessary energy in keeping up temperatures, and in most parts will carry on with some brood rearing right through.—(N.S.W. Agric. Notes.)

NEW REGISTRATIONS.

Pitts and Lehman Ltd., capital £5,000; to acquire the business now carried on under the style of Pitts and Lehman. Subscribers: W. Pitts, J. M. Lehman, A. C. Hughes, P. H. Rutledge, L. Presgrave, Veronica Lehman, Agnes Pitts.

Nindethana Orchards, Batlow, orchardists and fruit packers. Com. 1/3/34. Proprietor: Arthur J. Arnot. Reg. 12/4/35.

NEW COMPANIES.

A new fruit drink company was registered last month as manufacturers and sellers of fruit cordials and jellies. Styled "Caves Pure Fruit Drinks Pty. Ltd.", with a capital of £5,000 in £1 shares. The directors announced are Alfred Cave and Isabel May Cave.

WINDING UP OF PUBLIC COMPANY.

Associated Growers' Selling Agency Limited, Sydney. (By resolution confirmed 18/3/35.) John N. Weymark, liquidator.

THE ... Market Grower

Items of Interest

Official Organ of the Market Gardeners and Fruitgrowers Society of Victoria.

President: E. A. Le Page.

Vice President: Cr. A. Bunny.

Committee: G. Ryan, C. James, C. Baker, L. Lawrence, J. Hawkes, J. Stocks.

Arbitration Committee: H. V. Barnett, W. Simmonds, E. A. Le Page, H. Besant, W. D.

Barnett, Secretary: Cr. C. C. A. George, Highett Road, Moorabbin, Vic.

Also Official Organ of the Koondrook & Barham Tomato Growers' Association.

Asparagus Culture

A Profitable Crop

(By E. E. Pescott, F.L.S., Senior Horticultural Instructor,
Victorian Department of Agriculture.)

The edible stems of the Asparagus plant form one of the most acceptable and healthful of vegetables. Asparagus officinalis, as it is botanically known, is a native of temperate Europe and Asia.

In its native habitat, the Asparagus plant grows in the sands of the seashores. Asparagus is easy to grow; and, once the bed is established, it perhaps gives less trouble, and requires less attention than many other vegetables more commonly grown.

Asparagus requires a deep, rich, loamy soil, heavily stored with strong organic manures, well trenched and drained, and thoroughly cultivated in autumn and spring.

Preparation of Soil.

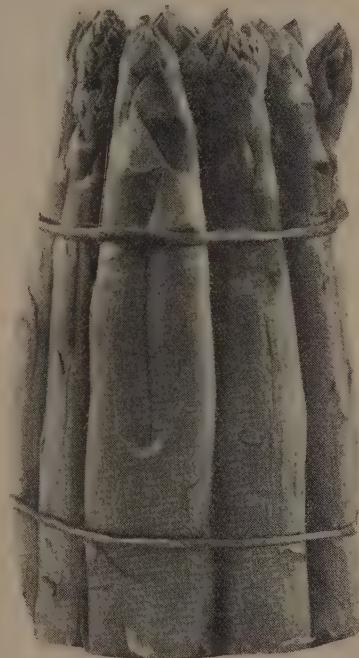
The choice of a soil for Asparagus culture cannot be given too much attention. The soil can hardly be too rich, especially in organic or humic material. If one's soil be at all heavy, and particularly of a clayey nature, the clay should be removed, and the soil should be made much lighter by the addition of humic material.

An old method of preparing an Asparagus garden is to dig a pit at least 3 feet deep the full size of the intended bed. All clay, heavy soil, stones, and solid matter are then removed, and the bed filled with rich, friable humic soil with a proportion of sand to facilitate draining. The bottom of the pit is covered with a layer of 6 or 8 inches of well-rotted manure and leaf-mould; above that is placed a layer of rich soil or turf, then a layer of manure, and so on, until the pit is filled. Such a bed would produce good crops for years. It is not wise, however, to make up the bed by placing the soil and manures in alternate layers; the rich soil and manure should be well mixed together, so as to form an even mass of material.

The bed depth of 3 feet is not always necessary. The soil may be worked out to a depth of a little over 2 feet; and then at planting time a good covering of rich soil might be placed to a depth of from 9 to 12 inches, thus providing a raised bed, which would be easily drained also.

The bottom of the bed should be well trenched, and drainage exits must be provided. In preparing large areas, it would be impossible to follow this system. The soil should be ploughed deeply, without bringing the subsoil to the surface, and it should also be subsoiled, particularly if the latter be not at all porous. A good covering of stable manure should be then given; and the grower will have to rely upon subsequent top dressings with artificial fertilisers to provide nutriment.

In preparing the beds, anything that will form plant food or open the soil, may be utilised, such as sand, turf, wood ashes, soot, crushed bones, leaves, grass



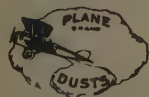
Bunched Asparagus Tips.

cuttings from lawns, straw, seaweed, in addition to the ordinary fowl, cow, pig and horse manures.

It is a decided advantage to have the bed prepared in the autumn, so that the various ingredients may be sweetened and mellowed before the planting season.

In large areas, the depth of the bed can readily be provided for by ploughing out between the beds, throwing the soil well up on the bed; thus providing the raised bed system.

The principal Asparagus growing areas in the State are Geelong and East and West Gippsland. In these districts there are several types of soil. There is a rich black humic sand at the base of the coastal sand dunes, several feet in depth, in which the roots can travel deeply. The availability of seaweed makes these areas very suitable; and the



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"Beauty" (Knapsack) Dusts

"Superior" (Rotary) Dusts

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MELBOURNE

addition of seaweed, containing as it does, much potash, cheapens the cost of production.

Then there are the old lake and river bed areas, which have been built up largely by the decay of rushes and reeds, as well as by the deposition of debris of all kinds.

Thirdly, there are the reclaimed swamp areas of the Berwick, Narre Warren, Koo-wee-rup districts, and the alluvial soil of the Mitchell River at Bairnsdale. These soils are deep and rich in humus, from decayed Tea-tree foliage and other swamp growths.

Wild Asparagus.

In parts of the State, such as the Mildura settlement, and at Quantong and Riverside, near Horsham, Asparagus has become acclimatised, mostly on the channel banks. Here the plants grow very freely, and the stems are a source of income to the local inhabitants. Of course, the stems are not blanched, but even with the green coloring, these local Asparagus tips and stems are very palatable, and are much in demand.

Planting.

The plants may be set in the rows from June to August. The beds should be arranged so as to take every advantage of the sun.

One-year or two-year-old plants may be used. If the yearling plants are strong, with well developed crowns, and three or four buds, they may be planted; they will give as good results as two-year-olds. Seedling crowns are to be preferred to divisions of the older crowns, as the young plants have greater vigor and vitality. The plants should be planted in rows about 18 inches apart in the home garden, with the same distance between each plant.

In large areas, the plan of planting in double rows is often adopted, the rows being alternately 2 feet and 3 feet apart. This allows for a furrow or a trench to be run between each double row in the winter, to provide for good surface drainage. The trench is dug deeply, and at a lower level than the crowns, so that there shall be no surface water settling about the roots. The plants should be placed at least 6 inches below the surface.

For planting, a furrow or trench may be run along the length of the bed, and the crowns placed in this. The roots should be directed downwards, so that it will be well to have a slight crown in the centre of the furrow; they may then be covered with soil, and well trodden, care being taken to tread at the sides, and not on the crowns. A top dressing of manure will complete the work of planting. Sometimes it will be advisable to give a light sprinkling of bonedust or sulphate of potash in the trenches before planting.



A three-year-old Asparagus Crown ready for planting.

If it is desired
to grow seedlings,

the seed should be planted in a well-drained bed of rich soil, in rows about 2 feet apart. The seed should be sown sparsely. The young plants should be thinned out to 8 or 9 inches apart.

Frequent waterings with liquid manure, especially in dry weather, will make the results successful.

"Conovers Colossal" is the commercial Asparagus more commonly grown; while "Palmetto" is also a good variety, rather earlier than the former; "Argenteuil Purple" is another good variety, and very tender. This last-mentioned variety is often grown in localities where

Asparagus rust is prevalent. "Deering's Mammoth" is a locally raised variety, which, under good culture, produces very large, thick stems of first-class quality and flavor.

Cultivation and Management

From springtime to autumn, the beds will require to be continually hoed and cultivated. Soil crusts and sodden surfaces must be avoided; and in autumn, and again in spring, the beds may be forked or dug over. If trenches are cut between the rows, the soil may be thrown up on top of the crowns.

In the home garden, it is a good plan to rake or fork away the first few inches of top soil each year, not later than

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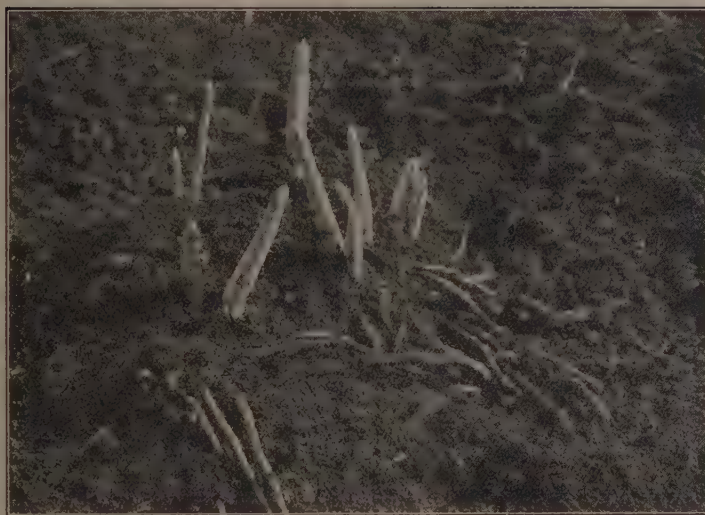
August. This should be replaced immediately with rich, "strong" manure or manure and soil mixed. If animal manure be not available, then a supply of chemical fertiliser should be mixed with the soil.

During the first year, the plants should be allowed to grow without any cuttings being made.

If good, sturdy growth has been made, the beds may be sparingly cut over during the second year, and then only for four or five weeks. Cutting causes weakness of growth; and, until the plants are sturdily established, they should not be weakened by forcing them to make unnatural growths. Subsequently, the beds may be regularly cut over, terminating the third year's cutting time with the end of November, and all subsequent cuttings early in December; with later varieties and in cooler districts the season will be extended.

In matured beds, the cuttings should always be "clean." That is, every growth, whether sturdy enough for culinary purposes or not, should be cut out. The stalks that are too small or poor for eating may be thrown away. From December, all growths should be allowed to continue until autumn, when the beds may be cleaned out; all the old growths should be cut down level with the ground, and the beds given a top dressing with stable manure. The tops are cut as soon as the seeds are ripened. These then appear of a bright scarlet color. The seeds must not drop to the ground, as they will germinate and grow, and the seedlings will become some of the worst weeds in the beds.

Asparagus beds frequently make several growths during the season, or they may, under very favorable conditions, be



Asparagus Stems ready for cutting.

making continual development of shoots right through the growing period.

Generally there is the spring growth, which is always cut out for culinary purposes. Then there is the continued growth, which comes after cutting ceases. Later on, early in February, especially if there be summer rains, a very strong regrowth appears.

Manuring.

Even though the plantation had been well manured before planting, the plants require constant manuring, as Asparagus is an exceptionally gross feeder. Dressings of stable manure may be given after cleaning out the beds, and after the beds have been "cut out" and are allowed to grow in December.

Seaweed is a valuable mulch for As-

paragus; and, if available, should be applied in abundance.

In addition to these, occasional sprinklings of chemical fertilisers may be given in spring and summer.

Salt Not Required.

The most perfect chemical fertiliser for Asparagus is a mixture of 2½ cwt. of sulphate of ammonia, 2 cwt. sulphate of potash, and from 4 to 5 cwt. of bonedust per acre. Blood manure, nitrate of soda, kainit, and muriate of potash are all useful for top dressing. Owing to As-



Seedling Asparagus growing on top of Crown.

(Illustrations by courtesy Vic. Journal of Agriculture.)

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paragus growing on the seashore in its native habitat, it was supposed that the plants required frequent dressings of salt to enable it to grow successfully. It has been found, however, that such is not the case. Further, on analysis, it has been shown that of all ingredients in the composition of this plant, salt is in the lowest percentage. Salt will kill the weeds without injuring the Asparagus; and has an indirect effect in reducing, to an available condition, certain plant foods that already exist in the soil.

Cutting.

With the advent of the warm spring weather, the Asparagus stems begin to come through the surface, and they are ready for cutting. They should be cut before the scales on the heads have opened out, the knife being inserted into the ground, cutting the stems below the surface, and carefully avoiding any other stems that are growing out from the same crown.

There are various Asparagus knives in use, but all are made on a similar principle, having the cutting edge at the end, instead of at the side, the end being either at right angles to the side, angular, or curved. A recently invented Asparagus knife has its cutting end shaped like a V, both inside edges being sharpened.

Pests and Diseases.

In this State, the Asparagus plant is singularly free from these troubles. In America, considerable injury is done by the Asparagus Beetle, which is a pretty beetle with red, lemon and dark-blue coloring. The beetle causes damage by the larvae burrowing into and eating the young Asparagus stems.

Asparagus rust frequently causes considerable damage by attacking the growing stems, and thus weakening the whole plant and interfering with its growth. It is always a safe plan to burn the tops of the plants when they are cut down in autumn; this will destroy effectually both fungus spores and insects that may be lurking therein. In California, great havoc and considerable loss resulted from continued attacks of the Asparagus rust. There, both sulphur and Bordeaux mixture have been used with good effects. It has been found also that some varieties are more resistant to rust than others. The "Palmetto" variety stands out prominently as being an excellent rust resistant; while the French variety "Argenteuil" is considered equally rust proof.

Conclusion.

If the field or beds have been well established and well cared for, there is every reason to expect that they shall be productive for many years.

Asparagus canning is a very important industry, and it is now established on a sound commercial basis. "Conover's Colossal" is practically the only variety grown for that purpose.

Vegetable Culture.

The Importance of Adequate Drainage Preparing Land for Planting.

Mr. H. V. Barnett, of Moorabbin, Vic., ex-president of the Market Gardeners' and Fruitgrowers' Society of Victoria, writes as follows on May 14:—

The article on Cauliflower culture in the May "Fruit World and Market Grower," is quite sound and correct, and would apply equally well to our district as any other.

In view of the past wet weather, and the approaching winter months, the importance

of surface drainage and the formation of lands for planting cannot be estimated.

It is most desirable at this season of the year to have the headlands at the drainage end of the land well scooped out, so that the level is below that of the furrows; this allows the surface water to drain away quickly, and prevents the water from lying in the furrow, which is very detrimental to the crop. Vegetables, above all crops, feel the effect of water-logged land, and quickly go back in land that has too much water in it.

It is also very necessary to see that there are no hollows in the land, where the water will congregate. For the best results all vegetables require the land to be reasonably open, and want a reasonable amount of working in the early stages of their growth, for it is at this period when the foundation is laid for a good crop.

In laying up the lands for planting, it is wise to make the first four furrows stand up higher than the rest of the

land, so that it leaves the land with a crown in the centre, which helps to keep the land warm during the cold months, and also runs the water off to the furrow.

In making the size of lands, the ideal is from six to nine feet wide, and not more than five chains long: this leaves a furrow on either side of the land, which makes a convenient place to throw weeds taken from the crop.

CONTROL OF POTATO INDUSTRY.

At a representative meeting of the Romsey Branch of the Victorian Potato Growers' Association, Cr. J. A. Robb was elected president, and Mr. H. M. White secretary. A resolution was carried favoring a Marketing Board, under the Bill now before Parliament.

In the Dunolly (Vic.) district, severe frosts early in May completely destroyed all Bean, Potato and Melon crops.

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Primary Products Marketing Bill

NOW BEFORE THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT

A BILL designed to improve the marketing of primary products was introduced to the Legislative Assembly in Victoria by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) on May 14. A summary of the Bill is as follows:—

Definition of Producer.

... Any farmer, horticulturist, viticulturalist, grazier, poultry farmer, apiarist, dairyman or fisherman. . . .

A person by or on whose behalf the product is actually grown or produced. For the purpose of a poll or petition "producer" means every son or daughter of 21 years of age of a producer working for or with him, not for wages, but for his or her keep only.

The petition for a poll

must be signed by at least one hundred of the producers of any particular product, or if the number does not exceed 150, by at least one half of the total number of the producers of the product or any specified variety or grade thereof.

If more than 55 per cent. of the votes polled are in favor of the board, and at least three-fifths of the producers have voted, the Governor-in-Council may by proclamation declare that a board shall be constituted in relation to the commodity.

The board shall consist of two members elected by the producers, and one other member appointed by the Governor-in-Council.

The board shall be a body corporate capable of suing and being sued and capable of holding, selling or leasing real or personal property.

Producers' representatives to be elected by preferential voting. Two electoral areas may be declared.

Board members (elected for two years) can elect their own chairman, the chairman to have both a deliberative and a casting vote.

At the end of two years producers can on a poll of 55 per cent. of the producers authorise the winding up of the board.

Where a product has been declared a commodity, and a board appointed, the commodity is divested from the producers and becomes vested in and is the absolute property of the board as the owner thereof, provision to be made for the board to effectively obtain possession

of the commodity as such owner, freed from all mortgages, charges and encumbrances, etc., except such portion is the subject of interstate trade.

The Governor-in-Council has power to declare two or more products to be commodities under the Act, and to constitute a board in relation thereto, with similar powers as above stated.

Marketing Powers.

The board is empowered to employ officers and agents, arrange for financial accommodation, and to give necessary securities, to make arrangements as deemed necessary regarding sales for export or for consignment to other States or countries, arrange for the sale or delivery of any commodity (whether produced in Victoria or elsewhere), to do all things necessary regarding the transport, treatment, grading, processing, branding, labeling, storage, packing or preparing of the commodity for marketing, and may deduct from the net proceeds an amount not exceeding 1d. in the pound for a reserve fund.

Under Section 18, where a product has been declared a commodity under the Act, all commodities so vested (except for farm and family use) shall be delivered by the producers to the board or its authorised agent within such times and at such places as the board directs.

Producers can make voluntary deliveries for the board to deal with direct, the commodity so tendered and accepted being deemed to be the absolute property of the board, free of all charges encumbrances, etc.

Every producer who sells or delivers a commodity (except for interstate trade) to any other person than the board directs or any unauthorised person, or buys or receives a product shall be liable to a penalty of not more than £100.

Regarding payments to producers, Section 22 provides that the board may make payments to each producer on the basis of the net proceeds of sales of the same standard delivered to the board.

Every contract, whether made before or after the application of this Act, is hereby declared void.

Victorian Railways Commissioners, and any common carrier and any owner charterer, master or agent of any ship may, at the request of the board, with-



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out incurring liability, refuse to carry the produce from any place in Victoria to any other place in Victoria.

No proceedings at law shall be brought against the board by any person claiming to be entitled to a bill of sale, mortgage or incumbrance whatsoever in relation to the commodity or claiming to be the true owner of the commodity.

Producers when delivering commodity to the board shall give particulars of any mortgage, charge, interest, encumbrance or agreement connected therewith.

The board is not liable for acts performed in good faith and without negligence.

Levies.

The board is empowered to make levies on producers, such levies to be used for the administrative expenses, effecting insurance against pest, fire, hail, flood, etc., or for research work, provided that as regards insurance the producers give authority on a poll being taken.

Part 2 of the Act describes the Minister's power regarding statistics of production, marketing, publishing forecasts and market prices, producers, under penalty, to supply specified particulars.

Part three provides for polls and elections under the Act, the board to pay for expense of polls, voting compulsory, penalty £2.

The Governor-in-Council is empowered to make regulations for all the parties to the Act, penalty for breach of regulations £50.

The Victorian Marketing Bill.

"Pakenham Grower" writes: I would like to see growers air their views on the Marketing Bill through the "Fruit World." This is an important and vital matter. Personally, as the Bill now stands, it seems quite unacceptable, and I feel I could not support it. What do growers generally think about it?

CITRUS TREES FOR QUEENSLAND.

Selected Stocks and Buds Necessary.

REGULATIONS are in force in Queensland which provide grade standards for citrus trees sold in that State.

These provide for two grades, A and B, for citrus trees. "A" grade consists of the following varieties:—

Oranges.—Washington Navel, Valencia Late, Joppa, White Siletta.

Mandarins.—Beauty of Glen Retreat, Emperor, Scarlet.

Lemons.—Lisbon, Villa Franca.

Grape Fruit.—Marsh Seedless.

It is provided that with all trees of these varieties sold in Queensland the stocks must be grown from seed selected under the supervision of an Inspector and worked with buds similarly selected.

"B" grade consist of all other varieties of citrus, the stocks of which have been grown from seed selected under the supervision of an Inspector and worked with buds obtained by the nurseryman from trees possessing desirable characteristics.

The primary object of the regulation is to prevent the sale of undesirable types of trees and to ensure that orchardists will be able to purchase trees possessing a basis of first class quality which can be relied on to perist in the product when grown under the right conditions.

In actual practice the Queensland Department of Agriculture selects all seed from the fruit of good vigorous

seedling Orange and rough Lemon trees and distributes it to local nurserymen according to their requirements. All budwood of the above varieties is also obtained by Departmental officers from selected trees and supplied to nurserymen.

So far as imported trees are concerned it was decided at a meeting held in Sydney in September last, which Mr. H. Barnes, Queensland Director of Fruit Culture, attended with the New South Wales Bud Selection Society, representatives of the New South Wales Nurserymen's Association, and Mr. C. G. Savage, Director of Fruit Culture, Sydney, that N.S.W. trees would be admitted provided they were accompanied by a certificate from the Department of Agriculture in that State setting out that the trees—

(a) Were grown on stocks raised either (1) from rough Lemon seed imported from Norfolk Island or selected locally under supervision, or (2) from seed of the seedling sweet Orange selected under supervision of an Inspector;

(b) Were worked with buds specially selected by the N.S.W. Bud Selection Society or the Queensland or Victorian Departments of Agriculture.

This State also has size standards in force for all fruit trees.

In the case of citrus it is provided that trees shall be not less than half an inch in diameter two inches above the union, of upright growth, and entirely free from any yellowing or chlorotic coloring of foliage.

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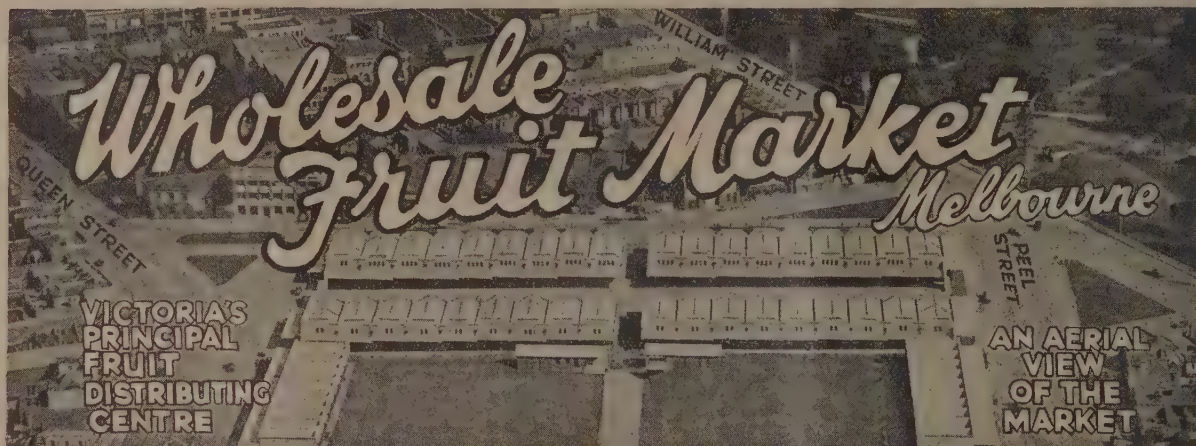
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Australian representative on April 5, stated as follows:—

"It is most discouraging to observe how the conditions of international trade, instead of improving, are going from bad to worse: we can only hope that the general chaos may be eventually cleared up, and that we shall then

be able to resume our business under normal conditions. We are afraid, however, that we are still a long way off from that goal, and unless Australia is prepared to barter her Apple exports next year against German imports, we fail to see what can be done to prevent a dead stop in our pleasant relations."



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To Improve Local Marketing.

Victoria Mark Fruit Company Seeks Government Grant for Fruit Advertising.

Minister Does Not Approve.

LITTLE or no satisfaction was received when a deputation from the Victoria Mark Fruit Co. Ltd. waited on the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) on May 15. The deputation was introduced by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Everard.

Mr. W. A. Thiele said that because of export restrictions and larger quantities on the local market, an Apple advertising campaign was imperative. The consumption of Apples in Australia was less than half an Apple a day per person, the average of one Apple per day would mean a total consumption of 15,000,000 bushels a year. The Victoria Mark Fruit Co. was not organised for profit, but for improving conditions of marketing. He requested a grant for advertising fruit.

The Minister: You are not asking for organised marketing?

Mr. Thiele: No. We are organising ourselves voluntarily; Apple growers have never asked for compulsory marketing legislation; they are opposed to it.

In response to the Minister's enquiry, Mr. Thiele stated that the finance required was between £2,000 and £3,000 to provide a scheme for advertising standard packs.

The request was supported by Messrs. W. P. Mair (Tyabb), G. C. Karnaghan (Blackburn), and W. B. D. Jarman (Red Hill).

The Minister, in reply, stated that the Bill for Organised Marketing was being submitted to Parliament. It was not the Government's policy to grant money to a body of producers to carry out a voluntary scheme of marketing. The only way in which the Government could help was by means of control board legislation.

The Minister's reply was disappointing to the deputation, as it was evident the Minister did not grasp the import of the request. No money was asked to finance the Victoria Mark Fruit Co. Ltd., it was simply requested that the Government should provide funds for advertising to increase fruit consumption. Such proposed advertising funds would be handled, if necessary, by the Department of Agriculture, and not by the company.

The general impression was that a further approach should be made to the departmental officers and Cabinet, setting out a concrete proposal for assistance to advertise to increase fruit consumption.

Australian Fruit in England.

Reports on 1935 Season.

Apples Generally Satisfactory—Absence of Bruising.

High Quality of Competitive Argentine Pears.

EARLY IN MAY reports from the Victorian Agent-General regarding Victorian fruit received in U.K. were generally satisfactory. Fruit ex "Orestes" and "Otranto" was sound and clean, being particularly free from bruising, although there was some small loss through bitter pit. On examining Apples ex "Orestes" at Liverpool, the fruit was generally excellent, but there was some poor marks of Jonathans, the fruit being dull, shrivelled and unattractive; packing and grading good.

The "Otranto" discharged 10,770 cases. Fruit generally very satisfactory. Few lots of Jons. were skin marked, others showed bitter pit. Grading and packing good, very little bruising showing. Pears excellent, varieties Packhams, Bosc, Howells. Spray russetting noticeable in some lines.

Plums ex. "Mongolia" realised 9/- to 10/- for good quality; some lines were lacking in flavor and poorly graded; the excellent market offering for early Plums justified only the best being shipped.

The 6,246 cases ex. "Otranto" were in a more forward condition, and quality generally better than the "Mongolia" shipment. Plums ex. "Otranto" realised —G. Duke, Golden Drop, President and Green Gage, 6/- to 9/-.

Australian Apples in London.

Prime Minister at Official Opening of Season.

Menace of Competition from American Cool-Stored Apples.

Trade Publicity Campaign Approved.

AT A GATHERING to mark the opening of the Apple season at Australia House, in London, the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) stated that the seasons themselves assisted Australia in her policy of not competing with the British producers, as British Apples were not picked until the Australian Apples had been sold.

Australia in the past had suffered because of the competition of cold-stored American Apples, continued the Prime Minister, and he was hopeful that this competition would be removed. The publicity funds were being well administered, and Australia would do well to provide more money for this purpose.

APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT.

A report received from the Department of Commerce gives the following figures, showing the export of Apples and Pears overseas from Australia during the 1935 season:—

	Apples.	Pears.
N.S.W., to May 4 . .	178,677	21,317
Vic., to May 18 . .	499,811	301,433
Q'land., to May 4 . .	7,273	250
S. Aust., to May 18	261,096	31,393
W. Aust., to May 4	640,882	30,038
Tas., to May 25 . .	2,344,728	156,023
TOTAL	3,932,467	540,454

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Fruit Sales in London

Criticism by Victorian Minister for Agriculture.

A Vigorous Reply.

RECENTLY the Victorian Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hogan) made a public statement criticising the methods of selling Australian fruit in London. Mr. Hogan said that large quantities of fruit were knocked down to buyers before it had even been looked at. On one occasion 60 lots were sold in a minute.

A reply was forthcoming from Messrs. Parnham Pty. Ltd., who pointed out that owing to the effective organisation

before sale it was possible for large quantities to be handled rapidly. In the basement of the London Fruit Exchange cases of Apples and Pears are opened and sampled by buyers, every lot being numbered according to a printed catalogue, and buyers recording their valuation of each line.

Mr. Hogan was mistaken, continued Mr. Parnham, in suggesting that buyers were foolish enough to bid blindly for fruit. Wool sales in Melbourne were conducted at great speed, but the buyers knew the value of each line before bidding.

Further, every reputable fruit auctioneer in England inspected the fruit before the sale, and had before him his own valuation at the time of selling.

FRUIT SALES IN U.K.

LONDON, 11/5/35. — Apples selling freely. Prices: Tas., Cox's 7/- to 14/-, Crabs 6/6 to 9/6, Alfs. 6/9 to 8/9, Jons. 7/6 to 12/-, Ribstons 5/- to 8/3, Cleos. 7/- to 9/6, Scarlets 7/6 to 9/6, Sturmers 7/6 to 12/-; Vic., Granny 10/- to 11/-, Romes 8/- to 9/-, Jons. 8/- to 9/6, Stones 8/3; W.A. and S.A., Jons. 9/- to 11/6, Cleos. 8/6 to 10/-, Dunns 8/3 to 9/3; N.Z., Cox's 11/- to 16/-, Jons. 8/6 to 12/-, Dels. 9/6 to 11/9, Granny 9/6 to 13/-, Cleos. 9/- to 9/6. Pears (standard cases): W.A., Packhams 8/- to 8/6, Comice 10/- to 16/-. Boxes, N.S.W., Boscs 7/6 to 12/-, W. Nelis 7/3 to 9/3, Packhams 7/- to 9/3; Vic., W. Coles 7/6 to 9/3, Packhams 8/3 to 11/6, B. Boscs 7/6 to 10/9, Anjou 9/6, Howells 7/3;

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S.A., Jos. 8/9 to 10/9, Glou Morceau 6/6 to 7/9, Boscs 7/6 to 9/9, Packhams 7/9 to 9/3, Howell 6/- to 7/-; N.Z., W. Coles 8/- to 10/-, Packhams 8/-. Standard Cases: Boscs, 7/6 to 9/-, Jos. 10/3 to 10/9.

Liverpool, 11/5/35. — Apples: Tas., Alfs. 8/6 to 10/-, Cleos. 7/6 to 9/6, Ribstons 6/9 to 7/9, Jons. 9/3, Worc. 8/9 to 9/6; Vic., Granny 10/9 to 11/-, Cleos. 9/6 to 10/3, Jons. 8/9 to 10/9, Dunns 8/- to 9/6, Alfs. 9/6; N.S.W., Granny 10/- to 11/-, London Pippins 8/6 to 8/9, King David 8/6 to 9/9.

CANADIAN APPLES AT SURREY DOCKS.

A sign of improvement in the trade with Canada is a steady increase in the shipments of fruits.

The Apple trade has adopted the sample system. Cases of Apples were formerly sent to Covent Garden, the Borough Market and other centres. Now the Apples are disposed of in Surrey Dock on samples submitted to brokers and agents. The Port of London Authority has had to build a large

shed in the Surrey Dock to deal with the new situation.

It is a sign of confidence, so excellent for trading purposes, when a commodity can be sold on sample in this way.

PEARS IN ENGLAND.

Commenting on some of the early arrivals of Australian Pears in England, the South Australian Trade Commissioner, Mr. C. F. G. McCann, stated that some were over-mature. In some brands corrugated paper was in one piece, the only opening being along one side of the top. Lack of ventilation was apparently the cause of the trouble.

AUSTRALIA AND HONG KONG.

A report issued by the Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth, covering trade in 1934, shows that a limited trade has been done between Australia and Hong Kong.

In canned and bottled vegetables, Australia supplied goods valued at only £9 as against £6,072 from England and £5,784 from U.S.A. The report states that this is one line which Australia should exploit but, since the old-established competitors are strongly entrenched, Australia would need to distribute samples and spend a good amount upon publicity in order to obtain a footing, after which the quality of her processed foods would need to be exceptionally high.

In fresh and dried fruits, Hong Kong gets most of her supplies from China, and much of the fruit cannot be produced in Australia. However, Australia last year shipped fruits valued at £21,900 to Hong Kong. Even so, U.S.A. supplied four times as much fruit of kinds as did Australia.

In comparison with our exports, Aus-

tralia last year imported 100 tons Peanuts, valued at £1,320, most of which came via Hong Kong.

VICTORIA.

Market Report for May.

MAY is cited as a rather slow month in the Victoria Markets. Trade was not at all buoyant, and business had to be pushed. With the export season practically finished for Apples and Pears, growers are devoting more time to supplies for the local market, and both of these lines were plentifully supplied.

Citrus. Again growers made the mistake of submitting immature Oranges. Whilst the acid content met the regulations, there was a quantity of sour fruit sent in, and the opening up of the season, from the consumers' point of view, was not as good as it would have been had time been given for better maturity. Coloring is not the whole solution, and growers would do well to submit fruit that will result in consistent repeat orders. Prices have been satisfactory, and the first demand good, but this will steady from now on. Grapefruit prices eased at the end of the month, and supplies are strong.

Apples. Now selling better; the market is not over-supplied for the best varieties, and demand is good at payable prices.

Pears. Slightly low supplies, with a fair demand for good Packhams; other varieties light. Prices for good samples satisfactory, others on the low side.

Bananas fluctuated throughout the month, with prices a little low.

Grapes practically finished. Growers held supplies off in the last week, and buyers closed out on all except Walthams and Muscats.

Herbert Wilson

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Pineapples sold well, with a medium supply, and prices firm.

Tomatoes. Quality on the poor side. Local supplies have fallen off, although there was fair demand for good samples. Hothouse demands will be fair toward the end of June, though this will be somewhat dependent upon weather conditions.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (30/5/35).—Prices quoted by the Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association yesterday were as follows:—Per Case: Apples, 4/- to 7/-; special higher; cooking, 2/- to 5/-. Bananas, per double case, green, 8's and 9's, 11/- to 13/-, few higher; 7's and 6's, 8/- to 10/-. Custard Apples, 4/- to 5/- half case. Grapes: Colored varieties, 8/- to

12/-; Ohanez, 11/- to 12/-; special higher. Oranges: Navel, 6/- to 10/-; N.S.W., 5/- to 7/-, few higher in each instance. Lemons, 4/- to 6/-, few 7/-. Mandarins, Queensland, 8/- to 13/-; few higher. Papaws, 12/- to 16/- double case. Passionfruit, 7/- to 14/-, few special higher. Grape-fruit, 7/- to 8/-. Pears, 4/- to 6/-. Tomatoes, 4/- to 8/-, special higher. Pineapples, 9/- to 13/-.

The Melbourne market manager of the Federal Citrus Council of Australia reports that the citrus market is dull. Sales yesterday were as follows:—Navel Oranges: Washington, selected standards, 6/- to 10/-, few 11/- and 12/-; average standards, including N.S.W. coast, to 7/-; Thompson's, 1/- to 2/- lower. Grape-fruit, good standards, to 7/- and 8/-; below standard grade, to 7/-. Lemons, good standards, to 6/-, a

few 7/-. Mandarins, a few selected varieties, to 12/- and 13/-; Sydney Emperors, full colored, to 7/- and 8/-.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (28/5/35).—Mr. L. T. Pearce, Market Representative, Fruitgrowers' Federation of N.S.W., reports as follows.—Apples: Cleos., 4/- to 7/-, Del. 6/- to 12/-, French Crab 4/6 to 6/6, G. Smith 5/- to 9/-, few higher, Jon. 5/- to 8/-, L. Pippin 4/- to 6/-, R. Beauty 5/- to 7/6, Scarlet Pearmain 4/6 to 6/-, Tasman's Pride 4/6 to 5/6, Winesap 4/6 to 7/-. Plain and "D" grades lower. Pears: Glou Morceau 5/6 to 9/-, Howell 5/- to 7/-, Jos. 7/- to 10/-, Packham's 5/- to 11/-, W. Cole 7/6 to 11/-, W. Nelis 5/6 to 10/-, Plain and "D" grades lower. Comments on the Apple and Pear Position: Approximately 33,000 cases

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Victorian Central Citrus Assn. Ltd.

Tasmania: State Fruit Advisory Board.
New South Wales: Griffith Producers' Co-op. Co. Ltd.
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Highest Prices.

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arrived from Tasmania to-day. Apples: The market is definitely over-supplied with inferior red fruit. There are not enough good quality Apples on the market, the majority of the fruit being hail-marked from local districts, and breakdown and spongy from Tasmania. Pears: These are not in very heavy supply, and the demand is still maintained.

Bananas: N.S.W. and Q'land. 9/- to 17/- trop. case, Fiji 12/- to 20/-, Norfolk Island 8/- to 12/-. Approximately 12,679 cases arrived during the week, of which 11,855 were N.S.W., 324 from Queensland, and 500 cases from Norfolk Island. Supply is not very big, and there is some good fruit in the market, but the demand is not good.

Custard Apples, Q'land., 3/- to 3/6, few 4/- half. Citrus: Grapefruit, N.S.W. 5/- to 9/- bush.; Lemons, N.S.W. colored 4/- to 6/- bush., plain and green 2/- to 4/- bush. Mandarins, Imperial 2/- to 4/6 half bush., Emperor 3/- to 7/- bush. Vals. 2/- to 8/-, few special higher, per bushel.

Comments on the Citrus Position.—**Lemons:** Very choice are the only fruit inquired for. **Mandarins:** Good sizes are meeting with better request than last week. **Navels:** Only large sizes are wanted, and small sizes are accumulating. It looks as if better sales will be

made shortly for Oranges and Mandarins, as sweetness is now appearing.

Papaws, Q'land., 9/- to 12/-, few special 13/- tropical case. Passionfruit, N.S.W., 5/- to 7/-, special 9/- to 13/-; inferior from 3/- half. Passionfruit are in light supply and selling freely, choice fruit being in very good demand. Persimmons, N.S.W. 1/6 to 2/6, few 3/- half. Pineapples, Q'land., Queen, 8/- to 12/- trop. case. Quinces, N.S.W. and Vic. 4/- to 6/- bush. Tomatoes, N.S.W. and M.I.A. 3/- to 5/-, colored to 6/- half, N.S.W. Mangrove Mt. 3/6 to 6/-, special to 10/- half, repacked 4/- to 8/- half, Q'land, 5/- to 6/-, colored to 7/- half.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Perth (24/5/35).—Apples: Jons., flats 2/6 to 3/6, dumps 2/6 to 8/9; Dunn's, flats, 2/- to 3/-, dumps 2/6 to 5/6; R. Beauty, dumps 3/- to 5/- (special to 6/-); Yates, dumps 3/- to 6/9; Granny Smith, flats, 2/3 to 5/6; dumps, 4/- to 8/- (special to 9/3); Cleos., flats, 2/- to 3/-, dumps 3/- to 5/6; Doherty, flats 3/- to 3/6, dumps 3/6 to 4/6; Del., dumps, 3/- to 7/9 (special to 8/6); other varieties, dumps, 3/- to 4/6. Citrus: Navels, flats, 2/6 to 6/6; dumps 4/- to 7/6; Lemons, 2/- to 5/3; Mandarins, 6/- to 10/-. Other Lines: Pears, Bartlett,

flats 5/- to 8/-, dumps 6/- to 8/-; other varieties, flats, 2/6 to 4/6, dumps 4/6 to 7/6; Grapes, 6/- to 8/-; Passionfruit, flats 14/- to 15/-; Tomatoes, 3/- to 8/9 (inferior from 1/6).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (24/5/35).—Apples (eating), 4/- to 7/- case; Bananas (Q'land.), 16/- to 19/- case; Grapes (dark), to 8/- case; Grapes (white), 10/- case; Lemons, 7/- to 8/- case; Oranges (Navel), 6/- to 8/- case; Passionfruit, 16/- case; Pears (eating), 8/-; Pears (cooking), 4/-; Pineapples, 18/-; Quinces, 3/- to 4/-.

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane (11/5/35).—Messrs. Robsons Pty. Ltd., Brisbane, report as follows:—Since last month's report all vegetable values have suffered a sharp decline. Choice Beans are now selling to 3/- per bag, and Peas to 6/-. Cabbage and all small vegetables are selling at very low rates. Cauliflowers are now making their appearance, and in contrast to other vegetables are realising to 13/- dozen.

Citrus values are as follows:—Oranges to 6/-, Navels to 11/-, Lemons to 17/-, and Mandarins to 11/-.

Pines of choice quality are still selling at firm rates, both rough and

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

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In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association of Victoria
the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the

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Office : 21 Wholesale Fruit Market,
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smooth leaf varieties bringing to 10/- case.

Choice Southern Ohanez Grapes are realising 11/-.

Market rates for Apples to-day were as follows:—Jons., to 9/-, G. Smiths to 8/-, French Crabs to 7/6, other varieties such as Scarlets, Democrats, etc., to 8/-.

W. Cole Pears are still meeting a good demand at 11/6. Custard Apples are now plentiful, choice quality selling to 4/-.

Brisbane (22/5/35).—Messrs. Clark & Jesser, Turbot-street Exchange, Brisbane, advise as follows:—During the past few weeks our market has been well supplied with Apples and Pears, which are chiefly from Victoria and Tasmania. The market is fairly well supplied with Granny Smiths from Stanthorpe, Queensland, and Kentucky, N.S.W. These are in keen demand, and have taken the place of French Crabs on this market.

Our local citrus crop is now in full swing, and although Oranges are rather dull of sale, Mandarins are meeting with a good demand. Custard Apples are plentiful, and selling at low values.

The ruling prices at present are:—Apples: Jons. 7/- to 8/-, S.P.M. 6/- to 7/-, French Crabs 7/6 to 8/-, S.T.P. 6/- to 7/-. Pears: Winter Coles and Jos. 11/- to 12/-, W.N. & P.T. 10/- to 11/-, Giblin Seedlings 9/- to 10/-.

Oranges, Queensland, 5/- to 6/-; Mandarins, 10/- to 11/-; Lemons, 8/- to 10/-; Custard Apples, 2/6 to 3/- per quarter case.

Tomatoes, 5/- to 7/-; Pumpkins, 4/6 per cwt.; Pineapples, rough leaf, 3/- to 4/- per doz., smooths, 5/- to 7/- per doz.,

or 8/- to 9/- per case. Bananas (singles) —8's, 12/- to 13/- per case, 7's, 10/- to 11/-, 6's, 8/6 to 9/-.

During the earlier part of the month all vegetables were scarce, but within the last two weeks supplies of most lines have greatly increased, with the result that prices have declined. Choice Cabbages are now selling at 4/- per doz., Cauliflowers 8/- to 12/- per doz., Peas and Beans 5/- to 6/- per sugar bag. Carrots, Beetroot and other root vegetables are still realising good prices.

NEW ZEALAND.

Messrs. Reilly's Central Produce Mart Ltd., Dunedin, report under date May 18, as follows:—Business has been quiet during the week. Full lines of fruit and produce coming to hand. Values for choice lines of Jons. and Del. are very reasonable.

The Niue Bananas ex the "Maui Pomare" are in excellent condition, and meeting a fair inquiry. Gros Colmars Grapes and local hothouse Tomatoes have been plentiful, and prices are firm for both these lines.

Prices, Bushel and American Cases.—Apples, choice Jons. 4/-, 6/-, Del. 4/-, 7/-, Sturmers 5/- 6/-, cookers 3/-, 5/- Pears, W. Coles 5/-, 6/6, W. Nelis 5/6, 7/-, Pears (cooking), 4/6. Cal. Vals., 38/-, Island Oranges 20/- Bananas, ripe Niues 20/-. Cal. Lemons 42/6., N.Z. Lemons 1st grade 15/-. Mandarins, 8/-.

Half-Cases: Pears, W. Coles 2/-, 3/-, W. Nelis 2/-, 3/-, cooking Pears 2/6. Passions wanted.

95 lbs. PER PERSON.

British People Like Fruit.

The report of the Imperial Economic Committee covering 1934, shows that a record consumption of fruit was reported last year. In Apples the consumption equalled the average of 32½ lbs. per person in the United Kingdom and was 8 lbs. per person more than was consumed in 1933.

It is interesting to note the average quantity of fresh fruit per person consumed last year. Apples head the list with Oranges second at 24.1 lbs., then follow Bananas (12.2 lbs.), Plums (8.2), Lemons (3.2), Grapes (2.5), Grapefruit (2.3), and Pears (3.2), with other fruits comparatively negligible.

The total consumption of all fresh fruits by our British friends averages 95.6 lbs. per person per year, but as they only grow approximately 9.22 per cent. of their requirements, they had to import some 2,033,150 tons last year.

EAT SOME FRUIT FOR BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING.

(Tune—John Peel.)

If you want to build your body to be strong when you are old,
You must live out in the sunshine, you must clothe against the cold,
You must be your own physician, like the ancient people bold,
You must eat some fruit for breakfast every morning.

Chorus:

For beneath its peel and its coat so gay,
Lies the only guarantee we've got to keep away
All the Ache-y-isms, itis-es that come our way,
We must eat some fruit for breakfast every morning.

If you want to put some fire and some sparkle in your eye,
You must pack your patent medicines and send the butcher by.
You must grow the food God gave you underneath His sunny sky,
You must eat some fruit for breakfast every morning.

You must eat the wheat that's growing, ere it goes into the mill,
It's the overdone refining that is making people ill,
And the bread of life was never given unto man to kill,
It was meant, with fruit, for breakfast every morning.

Soon the coming generation will be flying in a plane,
Which requires a quick decision and a steady nerve and brain.
If they fail to keep it flying, they will never fly again,
You must eat some fruit for breakfast every morning.

—Contributed.

[The foregoing is a song we would like to hear fruitgrowers singing lustily when they meet at conferences. Will some poetic aspirant please compile an eat more fruit song to the tune of Swanee River? We offer a prize of 5/- for the best effort.—Ed., "F.W."]

BROADCASTING.

Broadcast talks, as follows, will be given by Mr. H. Barnes, Director of Fruit Culture, Brisbane, from 4QG, Brisbane, at 7.15 p.m., thus:—June 25, Queensland Nut Growing; June 27, Citrus Culture.

* * *

On May 30, Mr. Barnes also gave an interesting talk on Frost Prevention by Orchard Heating.

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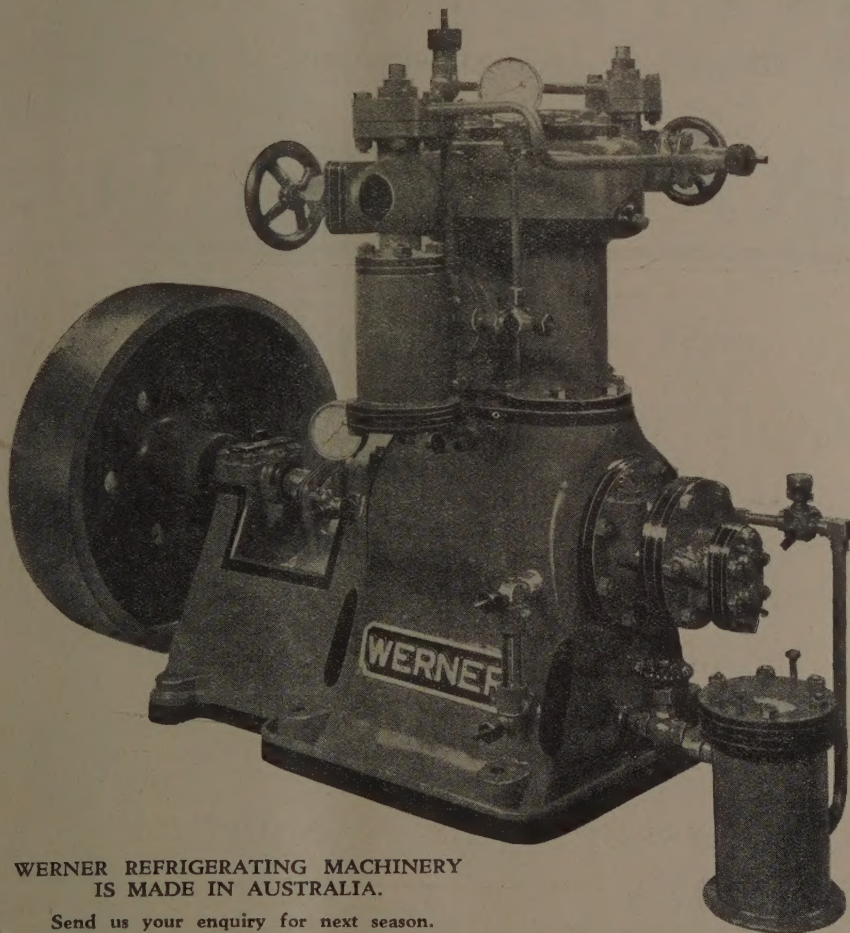
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